

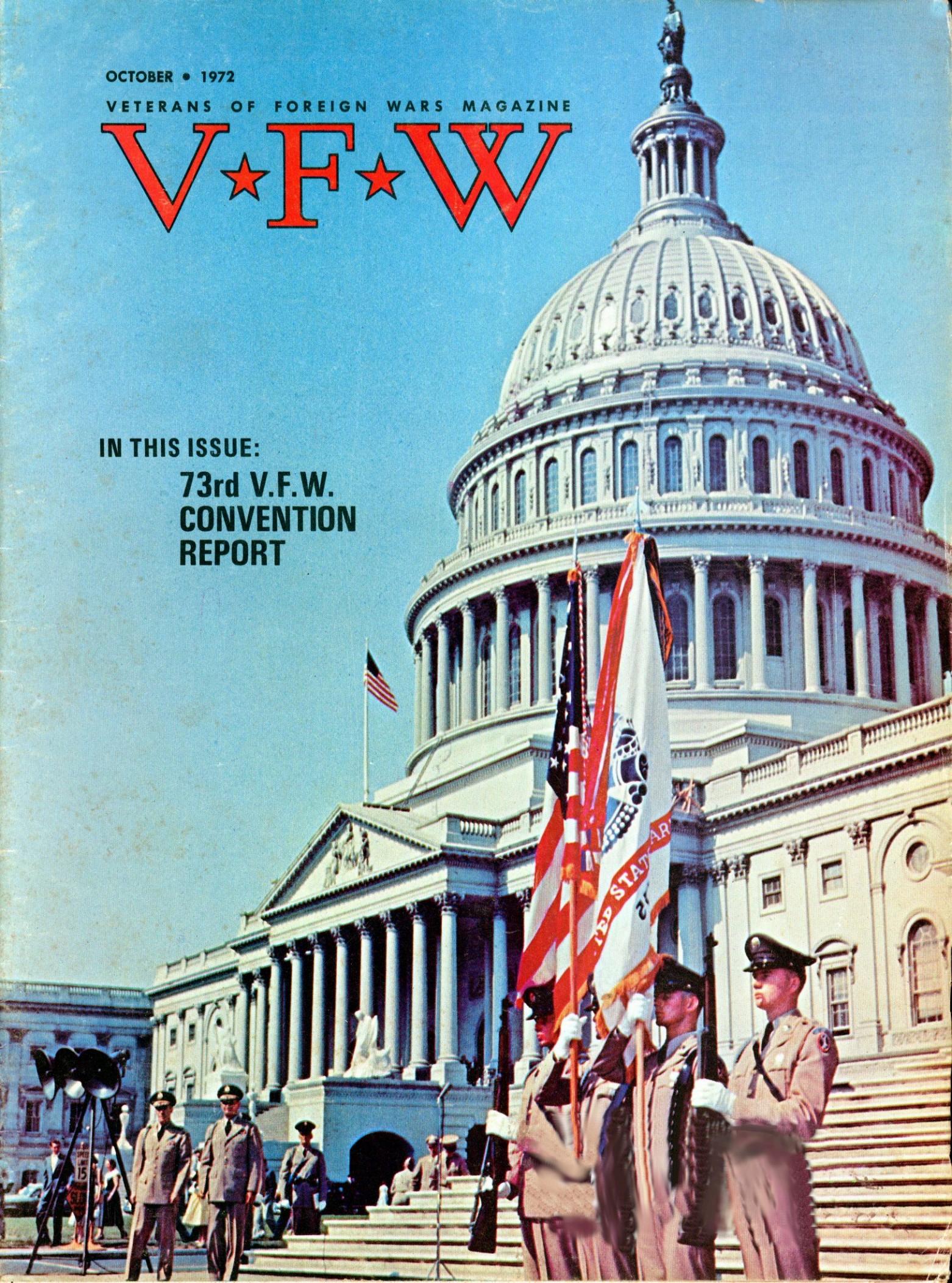
OCTOBER • 1972

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MAGAZINE

V•F•W

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73rd V.F.W.
CONVENTION
REPORT



VFW



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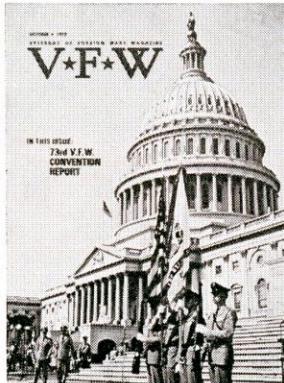
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THE COVER

All eyes are focused on the national Capitol in October as the political campaigns move into high gear a month before the November balloting. What better way to highlight the reports of the 73rd National V.F.W. Convention, with its implications for veterans rights and benefits, national security and patriotism than by a cover showing the Capitol and an Army Color Guard? All the symbolism is there—the Flag, the military and the Capitol in Washington where the laws affecting you as veterans and citizens are made. (U.S. Army photo)



V.F.W. OBJECTIVES

- TO INSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MAGAZINE

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V.F.W. MAGAZINE

1972 V.F.W. DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS 1973

(Other pictures appeared in last issue.)



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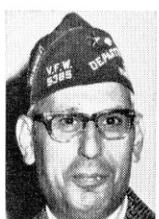
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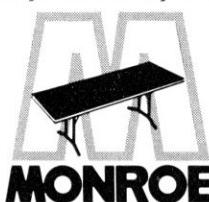
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New MOC officers for 1972-73 are (L-R): George Jeschke, Supreme Jr. Vice Cmdr.; M. W. Welliver, Supreme Quartermaster-Adj.; Owen Ball, Supreme Cmdr., and Jerry Bloir, Supreme Sr. Vice Cmdr.

New Highs For MOC

RECORD HIGHS were reported by the Military Order of the Cootie during its 53rd Supreme Scratch held in Minneapolis, Minn., prior to the 73rd annual V.F.W. National Convention.

The MOC noted its greatest registration in history for the Supreme Scratch. A new hospital record in excess of \$2 million and an all-time high membership of 282,687 in the V.F.W. Booster program were announced at the meetings. In addition, the MOC formed 44 new Pup Tents during the year and had a membership increase of over 30,000.

Owen W. Ball, of Winter Park, Fla., Supreme Senior Vice Commander, was elevated to Supreme Commander succeeding Randy Lofgren, of Lake Elmo, Minn.

Commander Ball's goals for the year are \$2 million for hospital work, 300,000 V.F.W. boosters, \$25,000 for the Christie J. Braun Memorial Scholarship program and a membership of 32,000.

Other officers elected and appointed were: Jerry Bloir, South Bend, Ind., Supreme Senior Vice Commander; George Jeschke, Carpentersville, Ill., Supreme Junior Vice Commander; M. W. Welliver, Tallmadge, Ohio, Supreme Quartermaster-Adjutant; William Rodriguez, Oklahoma City, Okla., Judge Advocate; Rev. Henry Bucklew, Laurel, Miss., Chaplain; Joe Nigro, Omaha, Neb., Surgeon; Frank Mendez, Jr., Arcadia, Calif., Chief of Staff; Harold Van Orden, Old Bridge, N.J., Provost Marshall; Duncan Hedgepeth, Phoenix, Ariz., Historian; Ben Clupper, Dowagiac,

Mich., Jimmy Legs; Mark Farrell, Easton, Pa., Inspector; George C. Beland, Lebanon, N.H., Hospital Commissioner; Curtis L. Johnson, Milwaukee, Wis., Shirt Reader; Robert A. Dewey, Bemus Point, N.Y., Editor; James Hanks, Brighton, Mich., Associate Editor; James Cummins, West Seneca, N.Y., Associate Editor; James Folgarelli, Detroit, Mich., National Home Chairman; Richard Sebrell, Lansing, Mich., Christmas Chairman; George Hallenbeck, Lansing, Mich., Assistant Christmas Chairman; Joseph E. Dolan, Bethesda, Md., Tomb Trek Chairman; W. E. Bryce, Biloxi, Miss., V.F.W. Booster Chairman; David F. Wood, Hyattsville, Md., VAVS Representative; Robert Cruson, West Hyattsville, Md., VAVS Deputy; Michael O'Hearn, North Miami, Fla., VAVS Deputy; Al Dryfuse, St. Petersburg, Fla., Membership Director; Harold Lake, Fort Reading, N.J., Robert Zinkle, Keesler AFB, Miss., Dallas, Nye, Tulsa, Okla., John Doyle, Great Falls, Mont., Leonard Hudlow, Lafayette, Ind., Felix Von Magnus, Concord, Calif., Deputy Membership Directors; Art Selbo, Alice, Wis., Public Relations Director; L. G. Galivan, Chalmette, La., 54th Supreme Scratch Chairman; Sam J. Grillo, Taftville, Conn., Life Membership Chairman; Robert Sales, Louisville, Ky., Parliamentarian & Bugler; James McNabb, Canal Zone, Supreme Canal Zone Representative; Gene Thomas, Orlando, Fla., Personal Aide to Supreme Commander; Mahlon Van Vleck, Kansas City, Kan., Blood Chairman.

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Auxiliary To Fight Drug Abuse

Special emphasis will be placed by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on the fight against drug abuse, Mrs. Lola Reid, of South St. Paul, Minn., its new President, told delegates to its 59th annual National Convention in Minneapolis, Minn.

She called upon members in all communities to assist in educating the general public on the drug problem.

"Contrary to popular belief," she said, "drug abuse is more prevalent in communities of less than 5,000 population than in larger cities."

Mrs. Reid succeeds Mrs. Frances Harmon, of Omaha, Nebr. In accepting the office, Mrs. Reid said, "We have reached a membership of 485,000 in our 6,700 local Auxiliaries, the highest membership ever. My goal for this year is the half million mark."

She also announced the Auxiliary has contributed nearly \$5 million to aid cancer patients and cancer research during the past 25 years.

During the Convention, Mrs. Harmon presented a \$5,000 check to the Medical Oncology Fund of the Minneapolis Medical Foundation for use in cancer research.

The Auxiliary's annual Unsung Heroine Award was presented to Esther R. Sell for humanitarian service performed in the Philippines.

V.F.W. Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites also appeared before the Convention to present a V.F.W. Gold Medal of Merit to Mrs. Jeanette K. Schrader of the Seattle Police Department. She worked as an undercover agent for six months during 1971 gathering evidence and information which led to the breaking up of a large Pacific Northwest drug ring.

A special award was presented by Mrs. Harmon to Department Senior Vice Commander Preston F. Garris of North Carolina. A Vietnam veteran, he was honored for his work on the behalf of other veterans.

The annual Ernie Pyle Awards to an Auxiliary and to a newspaper in recognition of outstanding service went to the Auxiliary of V.F.W. Post 3706, Chalmette, La.,



National Auxiliary President Frances Harmon was presented the V.F.W. Gold Medal Award of Merit by Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites. (567)

and to Arenac County Independent, Standish, Mich.

Rep. William Jennings Bryan Dorn (S. C.), of the House Veterans Committee, addressed the Convention and discussed the work of the Committee and pending legislation which would benefit veterans.

Other Auxiliary officers for 1972-73 are Mrs. Odie Lee Gossett, Monroe, La., Senior Vice President; Mrs. Betty Butler, Cranford, N. J., Junior Vice President; Miss Erlene Mayberry, Kansas City, Mo., Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Glenn Grossman, Chicago, Ill., Chaplain; Mrs. Mary Souders, Portland, Ore., Conductress; Mrs. Grace Minnix, Belle, W. Va., Guard; Mrs. Ruth Peterson, Minneapolis, Minn., Chief of Staff; Mrs. Dorothy Letcher, Cincinnati, Ohio, Patriotic Instructor; and Mrs. Betty Kraszewski, Plymouth, Pa., Historian.

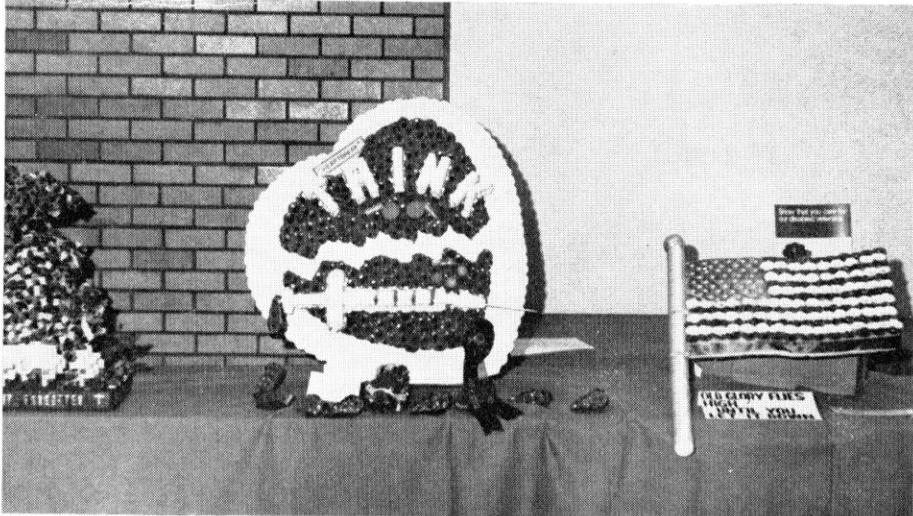
Elected to two-year terms on the National Council of Administration were: Dist. 2, Mrs. Kathleen Marchand, Wellesley, Mass.; Dist. 4, Mrs. Rita Mellow, West Barrington, R. I.; Dist. 6, Mrs. Dolores Komar, Weirton, W. Va.; Dist. 8, Mrs. Hannah Handy, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Dist. 10, Mrs. Shirley Vidrine, Opelousas, La.; Dist. 12, Mrs. Evelyn Cossart, Deadwood, S. D.; Dist. 14, Mrs. Rita Lindblom, Outlook, Mont.; Dist. D, Mrs. Vivian Walters, Green Springs, Ohio; Dist. E, Mrs. Evelyn Zachman, Minneapolis, Minn.; and Dist. H, Mrs. Betty Craven, Kemah, Tex.



First place honors in Category II of the Buddy Poppy Display Contest went to this entry of Post 1296, Bloomington, Minn. (1976)

Buddy Poppy Displays Creative

This heart-shaped exhibit took top honors in Category III for Buddy Poppy Displays at the 73rd annual V.F.W. Convention. It was made by Post 7115, Lauderhill, Fla. (1981)



MANY CREATIVE uses of Buddy Poppies were exhibited during the 1971-72 Buddy Poppy Display Contest held during the 73rd annual V.F.W. National Convention in Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 18-25.

V.F.W. members showed talent and ingenuity in creating displays which promote the sale of Buddy Poppies.

A huge revolving display with an accompanying recorded message won first place honors for Post 367 and Auxiliary of Joliet, Ill., in Category I for public promotion of Poppy sales, which included window, booth, parade or Post displays, sales promotions and similar uses.

Other winners in this category were Post 501 and Auxiliary, Den-

ver, Colo., second place, and Post 5535 and Auxiliary, Chicago, Ill., third.

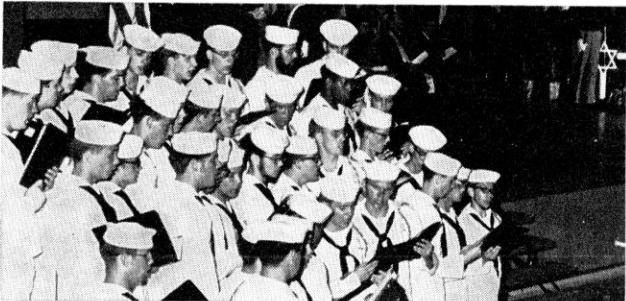
Category II for memorial or inspirational displays (wreaths, memorial tables or plaques) was won by Post 1296 and Auxiliary, Bloomington, Minn. Second place went to Post 5446 and Auxiliary, Planfield, Conn., and third was awarded to Post 454 and Auxiliary, Bloomington, Ill.

First place in Category III for artistic or decorative use of Poppies (Post home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces and other similar dis-

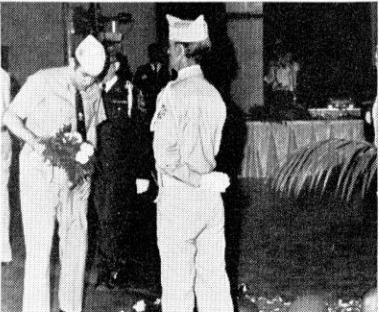
plays) was awarded Post 7115 and Auxiliary, Lauderhill, Fla. Second place was won by Post 9056 and Auxiliary, Minneapolis, Minn., and third by Post 6845 and Auxiliary, St. Paul, Minn.

Contest judges also awarded honorable mentions to the displays entered by the following:

Post 2252 and Auxiliary, Kalispell, Mont.; Post 2544 and Auxiliary, Ft. Worth, Texas; Post 4562 and Auxiliary, Texarkana, Ark.; Post 5803 and Auxiliary, Van Wert, Ohio; Ship 1774 and Auxiliary, San Diego, Calif., and Post 6279 and Auxiliary, Friendship, Wis.



Bluejacket Choir sang at service. (677) Honor Guard flanks symbolic grave. (643) Vicites lays wreath. (622) Dr. Bailey addresses annual service. (627)



The Dead Remembered

The lights were dim in the Minneapolis Auditorium. Some cheeks in the darkness were tear-flecked as the veterans turned back to men they had known in wars—men they were remembering at the annual V.F.W. Memorial Service Sunday evening, Aug. 20.

Delayed slightly because of poor flying conditions that night, the Bluejacket Choir from Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Ill., set the patriotic tone with the "Star Spangled Banner."

The Rev. Robert Vashro, Minne-

apolis VA hospital chaplain, said, "we of the V.F.W. have a special obligation because too many overlook the sacrifice these men made for this country.

"They accepted their responsibility and discharged it with honor," he noted.

The Rev. Charles H. Carpenter, V.F.W. National Chaplain, called in his prayer for God "to give our prisoners (those being held by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong) strength and fortitude and comfort for their families."

Rev. Carpenter's words were expressed during the Memorial Ritual in which V.F.W. and its Ladies Auxiliary national officers place symbolic wreaths on the simulated gravesites bearing a cross and a Star of David.

At the conclusion the Bluejacket Choir sang "Sleep, Soldier Boy," a particularly moving tribute to a dead serviceman adopted in the 1920s as an official part of the V.F.W. Memorial Service.

The sailors also sang "Nearer My God To Thee," which became famous as the hymn that comforted the doomed aboard the Titanic which sank after hitting an iceberg in the North Atlantic 60 years ago.

"Memory is what God gives us so we can have our roses in December," said the Rev. Dr. A. Purnell Bailey, executive secretary of the United Methodist Commission on Chaplains. "We memorialize with grateful hearts."

"The sense of comradeship you have with one another—Jewish, Catholic and Protestant—is in the true ecumenical spirit.

"We remember we are a select group come to remember those who gave their lives," he said.

"We have to lose something before we realize we had it and we don't remember the good things of life until we have lost them. Only those who remember with grateful hearts truly have their memories."

Rabbi Milton Kopstein, chaplain of the St. Cloud, Minn., VA hospital, prayed that the deeds of those killed in war and their "patriotism be an inspiration for us."

"May God cause His light to shine upon you and grant you peace," Rabbi Kopstein intoned.

With that the V.F.W. official band from Post 47, Uniontown, Pa., the home of Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites who presided over the service, softly played "Taps."

The colors were retired and Gold Star parents, whose sons were killed in war, were escorted down the center aisle by the Minnesota Ladies Auxiliary.

Slowly, pensively, they were followed by the participants in the service, whose thoughts still lay with the honored dead. ■



capitol digest

BY FRANCIS W. STOVER

Director, V.F.W. National Legislative Service

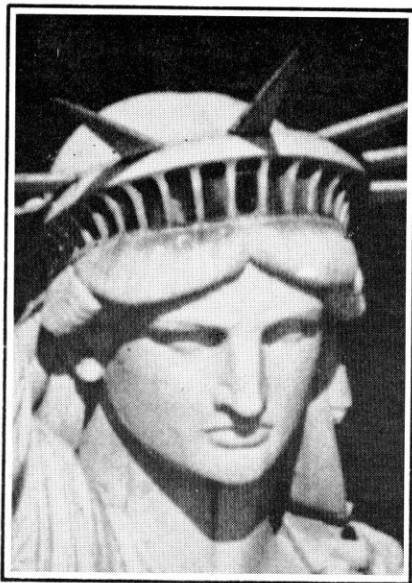
GI BILL RATE INCREASE: H. R. 12828, awaiting immediate action, would increase GI Bill rates by at least 14%, according to the House version, or as much as 43% in its Senate form. For a single veteran in fulltime training, the House version would up them from \$175 to \$200 a month, but the Senate would raise them to \$250 a month. Amendments added by the Senate, including two immediately rejected by the House, were a work-study program for disadvantaged veterans and an educational loan program for veterans who choose to go to private schools with tuition costs much higher than average. As one Congressman commented, the question before Congress is whether to put money in the basic rate increase for all veterans, authorize extra money for a certain few veterans who take a work-study program or obtain a loan from the VA of up to \$1,575 because they go to a school with high tuition costs. Overwhelming sentiment was for passage as soon as possible. Over 1.3 million Vietnam veterans are expected to receive GI Bill training this fall. H. R. 12828 also would call for an advance payment system so the veteran will begin getting his checks at the start of the school term.

V. F. W. ASKS CONGRESS TO PREVENT PENSION LOSS: The 20% increase in Social Security will have to be counted as income for VA pension purposes beginning next Jan. 1. This means a large number of veterans and their dependents will have their VA pension checks reduced or discontinued. To prevent this, the V. F. W. has called on the House and Senate to increase income limitations for a married veteran from \$3,800 to \$4,400, and for a single veteran from \$2,800 to \$3,200.

MAJOR VETERAN MEDICAL BILLS AWAIT FINAL ACTION: Little noted in the general press are three bills dealing with the VA's capability of delivering high quality health care to veterans. Most far reaching is H. R. 10880 which carries out several V. F. W. mandates. One calls for extending VA hospital care to dependents of men killed in action or who incurred permanent and total service connected disabilities. Some 200,000 widows and minor children of WWII veterans would benefit. Another, H. J. Res. 748, supported by a V. F. W. mandate, would authorize VA assistance to establish state medical schools at five or more VA facilities. The bill would also expand the VA's contribution to the nation's health by utilizing the VA medical system to help reduce the national shortage of 50,000 doctors and 250,000 other medical personnel. Both bills have been approved by the House and Senate, but in different versions. The third bill, H. R. 9265, deals with a problem which is an outgrowth of the Vietnam war. At present, the VA can care for any veteran suffering from any condition needing medical attention, including drug dependency, if the veteran has an honorable discharge. H. R. 9265 would authorize VA care for any drug dependent veteran or serviceman and authorize the VA to receive drug dependent veterans and servicemen committed to their care by a civil court. H. R. 9265 has passed the House and is pending full Senate action.

CHANGES AND FUTURE CHANGES IN CONGRESSIONAL LINEUPS: A frequent question asked is whether Rep. Olin E. "Tiger" Teague (Texas) will stay on as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. He has headed this vital Committee since 1954. Meanwhile, however, his colleagues have elected him to high leadership posts on other Committees. One is the Space Committee, where Teague ranks second behind Chairman George P. Miller who failed in his bid for renomination. Accordingly, if Congress continues to be Democratic controlled, Teague will have the choice of being Space Committee Chairman or continuing as Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman. Best information is that he will continue as senior member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, but take over the reins of the Space Committee. In that event, Rep. William Jennings Bryan Dorn (S. C.) will move up as Chairman. If the House should go Republican, the man who would take over as Committee Chairman is Paul Hammerschmidt (Ark.). The assumption is that more senior Republicans on the Committee would choose to be Chairmen of other Committees where they are also ranking Republican members.

CONGRESS DECREES NO CUT IN VETERANS HOSPITAL CARE: The President has signed an Appropriations Bill which includes an extra \$54 million to prevent the VA from cutting veterans hospital and medical care for fiscal 1973. The V.F.W. takes pride in this Congressional mandate since it was the V.F.W. which warned Congress and the Executive Branch that quality medical care in VA hospitals, in some instances, was deteriorating and that the number of veterans being treated on an average daily basis was sharply declining. Now Congress has told the VA to maintain not less than 85,500 average daily patient load and operate not less than 97,500 beds.



If Senator McGovern had his way our draft dodgers could come home now. **Our POW's, maybe never.**

You heard what the man said.

He would withdraw our troops first and then hope the communists would release our POW's. (He'd go to Hanoi and "beg" for them.)

President Nixon would get the prisoners back *first*, then withdraw our troops.

Which makes more sense to you?

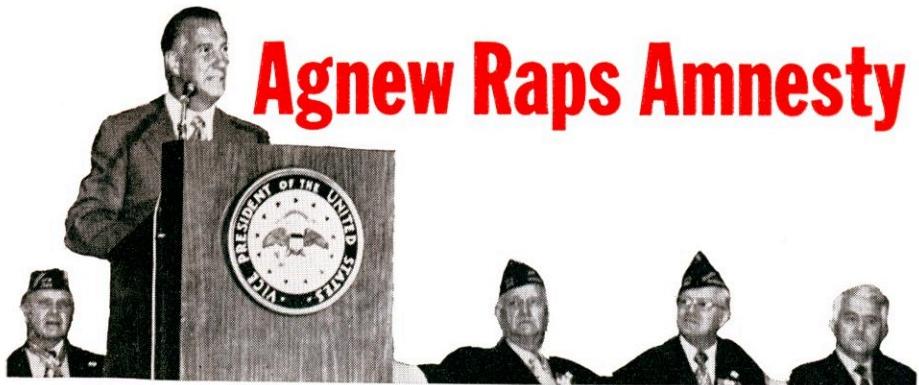
And what about draft dodgers? Does it make sense to have a blanket amnesty for everyone who didn't serve? President Nixon will consider amnesty only when all American troops are out of Vietnam and all POW's are returned. And even then he'd have us consider each case on its merits.

President Nixon says we should cut the fat from our military budget—but no more. Senator McGovern would cut \$32 billion from that budget, which means cutting the Navy in half and the Air Force in half. That's cutting into the meat of the budget—and into the very heart of America's defense.

The President is also firmly committed to fulfilling this nation's health care obligations to its veterans. He has no intention of dumping it into a socialized medical care program, as George McGovern would.

If you agree with President Nixon be sure to vote for him on November 7th.

President Nixon. Now more than ever.



Agnew Raps Amnesty

President Richard M. Nixon's "position on amnesty is totally different from that of Sen. McGovern," Vice President Spiro Agnew told delegates to the 73rd National Convention at Minneapolis, Aug. 25, final day of the sessions.

"The President has announced that he is opposed to the granting of any general or unconditional amnesty for those who evaded the draft," Agnew said. "He believes that when the war is over and our prisoners are released anyone who has evaded the draft must pay a penalty before receiving a pardon."

According to Agnew, McGovern "has said on many occasions, including his much-publicized hotel lobby speech to demonstrators in Miami Beach, that he favors a general amnesty for all young men who because of their opposition to America's Vietnam policy have refused to serve in our armed forces."

Agnew said that President Lincoln granted amnesty to military deserters after they returned to their units to serve their unexpired terms with the additional penalty of an extra period equal to the time they were absent.

President Coolidge, he continued, amnestied 100 deserters who left their units after the World War I armistice in order to offer them citizenship through a pardon.

Emphasizing that their defection occurred "following the armistice," Agnew said "they were not therefore World War I deserters and the amnesty granted them was a limited one."

In the case of President Roosevelt, he continued, some 1,500 WWI draft and espionage law violators were given amnesty in 1933 after they had served prison terms. Roosevelt's action, he said, was to restore their civil rights.

"So in stating or implying that the United States has in the past granted general amnesties to those who evaded the draft, the McGovernites have evaded the facts," Agnew said. "The truth is that the United States has never granted a general amnesty to draft dodgers!"

On the contrary, ladies and gentlemen, the United States has always looked with disdain upon those who in times of need walk out on their obligations to the nation and their fellow citizens."

Agnew took issue also with the argument that amnesty would "get this nation back together and heal our wounds."

"This might be true, I suppose, if most Americans were in favor of granting a full and unconditional pardon to all draft evaders," he said. "They are not. The fact is that the overwhelming majority of Americans are opposed to a general, blanket amnesty without penalties of any kind."

Agnew said that amnesty "would tear the country apart—it would anger and I believe rightly so the millions of Americans who have served honorably in our armed forces and the tens of millions whose sons and husbands and other relatives have been or now are in uniform."

"It would be a cruel affront to those servicemen who were seriously wounded in battle and who lie now in veterans hospitals unable to rejoin their families or to resume active lives as civilians."

Further the Vice President disputed the contention that American participation in the Vietnam War is "immoral."

"Is it immoral to try, through aerial and naval bombardment, to quell an invasion and help drive the aggressors back?" he asked.

"Is it immoral to give South Vietnam the aid it needs to safeguard the integrity of its borders and to determine for itself the kind of government it wants?"

Agnew said that "all wars are abhorrent and this war is no more unpopular with Americans than several of our earlier conflicts." He cited the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil, all of which had opposition even more extreme than the Vietnam War.

One of the hazards in a general amnesty, Agnew said, is that it would endanger conscription in the future and encourage others to dodge the draft.

"How can you expect young men to respond to a draft when they see other young men let off without so much as a reprimand for failing to respond?" he asked.

To such a question, Agnew said, Sen. McGovern's supporters reply in effect "so what."

He quoted several draft dodgers and deserters who fled to Canada as saying they do not want amnesty because they do not consider their action criminal.

"I question whether unconditional amnesty should be granted to draft dodgers who bear a deep-seated and unabating grudge against their country, who revile its principles and its traditions and who see nothing wrong in ducking out on their obligations and allowing other Americans to do the fighting for them."

"These men do not seem to deserve the forgiveness without penalty that Sen. McGovern wants to extend to them."

"On every ground I can think of—historical, legal, moral and practical—the idea of general amnesty without penalty or alternative service is totally without merit," he said. "The laws of this nation—statutes passed by duly elected representatives of all of the people—have been violated. To me, such violations should not be rewarded with a collective pardon and a rueful admission that it was the United States that was wrong."

There is more at stake here than the disposition of criminal complaints against those relatively few young men who refused to be inducted into our armed forces," he continued. "What is at stake is the right of a democracy to require military service from its citizens when such service is authorized by law."

Frequently departing from his prepared text, Sen. George S. McGovern, the Democratic presidential candidate, set forth his position on veterans benefits and national defense before delegates to the 73rd National Convention of the V.F.W. at Minneapolis Auditorium on Aug. 24.

He called for enactment of a GI Bill for Vietnam veterans "at least as generous" as that adopted after World War II and Korea and which would provide a minimum of \$250 a month in subsistence for those attending college or receiving training.

"If I become President the White House will be dedicated to a GI Bill which the veterans deserve," he said.

Additional veterans' proposals McGovern said he favored are increased assistance to the handicapped, such as paraplegics who need specially-adapted housing, "restoration of the capability of the VA hospital system to give the care veterans require" and "repair of VA hospitals to help them do a better job."

On national defense, McGovern said he is "deeply committed to an adequate armed force... to deter nuclear attack."

"But we must also understand that wasteful spending does not bring real defense," he continued. "Instead it only diverts from the sources of our security—from the modern and effective arms we need."

"I don't see how it serves our society to have more colonels, Navy captains, generals and admirals now—with 2.5 million men under arms—than we had commanding 12 million men at the height of World War II," he said.

"I don't think that's security; I think it's a top-heavy command structure that could easily collapse from the weight of excess brass."

McGovern said that the Government Accounting Office has recently totalled up more than \$35 billion in cost overruns and he has proposed a "hard critical look at the defense budget."

I think we'll find there are too many people who are bored in nonproductive, needless jobs," he continued. "I think we'll find that we've rushed ahead to buy too many weapons that are unneeded or won't work. I think we will find room for savings that will not only allow us to meet some of our accumulated needs here in our own society but will help us build a leaner, tougher and

McGovern Sets Goals



more reliable military force as well."

Recalling World War II in which he served as a bomber pilot, McGovern said, "our army left for war amidst the tears of those we left behind as all armies have left. But we knew there would be welcome and honor and a grateful nation when we returned."

"But things are different today, and every member of this organization knows this, as brutal as the reality may be," he continued. "In 1970, 65,000 men deserted from the Army. That is enough to fill about four infantry divisions."

"In these last few years heroin has destroyed far more lives in our Armed forces than enemy fire. Thousands of Vietnam veterans wander the streets hopelessly addicted to drugs. We were able to find them when we wanted them to go to Vietnam but we seem to be unable to find them when they come home with poison running through their veins."

"And whatever their attitude, they have returned to a society that really doesn't seem to care," he said. While we spare no expense on modern gadgets, we somehow can't find the money to provide veterans benefits worth more than a fraction of those we received when we came back from World War II."

Because of improved medical techniques, McGovern said, more wounded men were saved in the Vietnam War than in previous conflicts, "but they come back to veterans hospitals that are understaffed and shamefully neglected."

"They live out their lives with

broken bodies and with fractured ideals as well. So for all the grand rhetoric we have heard in recent years, some of the same people who talk about the glories of war are the stingiest on the budget."

He said he rejects "the notion that these conditions exist because we have raised a generation of slackers—our sons are just as good and courageous today as America's sons have ever been."

McGovern said that "so much baloney about me in the press has been circulated by my opponents that I want everyone in this room to know that with every fiber of my being I love this country."

"It is the greatest nation in the world and I dedicate my life to preserving the greatness of this land."

"If elected, when I hold up my hand to uphold the Constitution, I'm going to mean every syllable of that oath."

Discussing his own military record, the former bomber pilot said that "most of the crew where I was assigned did not come back and I completed every one of the 35 missions I was assigned to carry out and given the same situation I would gladly repeat that same experience."

In conclusion, McGovern cited Abraham Lincoln who said "let us strive on to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and all nations."

To this McGovern added "that is my hope and that is my prayer for this great and deeply troubled land." ■

With its delegate strength of nearly 17,000 and its membership of 1,708,000 the highest in its 73-year history, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States charted its course for the next year at its 73rd National Convention in Minneapolis, Aug. 18 to 25.

Leaders in all walks of public life from show business to politics enlivened the sessions with comments on major issues with which the V.F.W. is concerned.

As an indication of the organization's non-partisan stance, both Sen. George S. McGovern, the Democratic candidate for president, and Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, President Nixon's running mate, appeared before the delegates (See pages 16 and 17).

John B. Connally, former Secretary of the Treasury under President Nixon and a longtime associate of former President Lyndon B. Johnson, delivered the Convention's keynote speech (See page 26).

Problems of veterans were discussed by Sen. Vance Hartke (Ind.), chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; Rep. William Jennings Bryan Dorn (S. C.), vice chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee; Sen. Walter F. Mondale (Minn.), a member of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee which once was involved in veterans legislation, and Donald E. Johnson, VA administrator (See pages 28 and 29).

Law enforcement and the role the citizen can play in assisting police was described by Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess, of Los Angeles County, Calif., and L. Patrick Gray III, acting director of the FBI (See page 30).

Bob Hope was presented with the V.F.W. Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Medal at the Distinguished Guests Banquet Monday night, Aug. 21, for his visits to troops overseas in three wars.

Of American servicemen, Hope said "they stand for everything America stands for" as opposed to "some groups which preach hate and tear things down."

Gen. Eisenhower, he said, "was not a shouter or a showboater—he did his duty, loved his family and his country and did the best he could for them."

“There is a worldwide plot against the military," Hope continued. "They claim the

military loves war, but this is like saying a doctor loves sickness.

"The military is the greatest force for law and order in the world. The soldier puts his life on the line and lets the bullies know they will get their noses bloodied if they want to get mixed up in it."

American troops were sent to South Vietnam, Hope said, because the American people are "compassionate."

He said his award "will have a high spot in my trophy room at home."

Another entertainer honored by the V.F.W. was George Jessel, who also has toured frequently overseas where American troops are located. His was the V.F.W. Al Jolson Gold Medal Award.

Jessel, who was presented the award on Aug. 23, said, "I am proud after all these years I am

able to do something for my country" and urged his listeners to "pray for peace and that Almighty God protect the United States."

Besides Hope and Jessel, other prominent Americans honored were Connally, Citizenship Gold Medal Award; Pitchess, J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal Award; Mayor Charles S. Stenvig, of Minneapolis, Gold Medal of Merit and Citation; Chris Kraft, director, Manned Spacecraft Center, Space Award; Gray, who accepted a J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal Award in memory of J. Edgar Hoover, and Ludwig J. Andolsek, commissioner of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, Gold Medal of Merit and Citation.

Although the Convention did not open until Monday, Aug. 21, the traditional Memorial Service held at the Minneapolis Auditorium, site of all the major Convention

V.F.W.'s Future Course Charted At Convention



At the Joint Opening session of the 1972 V.F.W. National Convention, delegates salute the Flag. (631) Bottom left: Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites and Chris Kraft, director, Manned Spacecraft Center, this year's Space Award recipient. (682) Bottom right: Vicites and Bob Hope who was honored with the V.F.W.'s Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Medal. (905)

events, Sunday night, Aug. 20, was a highlight of the annual affair (See page 12).

The principal speaker was the Rev. Dr. A. Purnell Bailey, executive secretary of the United Methodist Commission on Chaplains, who said that "only those who remember with grateful hearts have their memories." The Bluejacket Choir, of Great Lakes Naval Training Station, provided additional solemnity to the occasion with a rendition of "Sleep, Soldier Boy."

At the National Council of Administration meeting Saturday, Aug. 19, Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites reported the V.F.W. had a 45,000 rise in membership to a record total of 1,708,000.

The 1972 figure was put into perspective by Quartermaster General J. A. Cheatham who noted that membership was 1,132,528 when the V.F.W. last met in Minneapolis 10 years ago.

Cheatham announced also that

the V.F.W. had contributed \$30,000 and the Ladies Auxiliary \$37,000 to disaster relief in the flood-stricken areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York and New Jersey.

Another \$10,000 was allocated to relieve suffering in South Dakota caused by floods there.

Sunday, Convention committees named to study the hundreds of resolutions to come before the delegates began their meetings.

On Friday and Saturday, Aug. 18-19, a National Conference of V.F.W. Service Officers was held at the Hotel Leamington (See page 54).

At the opening of the Convention, Monday, Aug. 21, Stenvig urged the V.F.W. to adopt a resolution opposing amnesty for draft dodgers and deserters and presented Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites and Mrs. Frances Harmon, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary, with Minnesota

gold commemorative coins.

Lt. Gov. Rudy Perpich, representing absent Gov. Wendell Anderson, said, "we as a nation have done far too little for the Vietnam veteran," and urged expanded psychiatric and drug treatment. Perpich praised the V.F.W. for its drug program.

"We must show the Vietnam veteran he is not a forgotten man," Perpich said.

Mayor Lawrence D. Cohen, of St. Paul, urged V.F.W. support for tough anti-pollution laws.

Vicites presented Mrs. Harmon with the V.F.W. Gold Medal of Merit and Citation "in grateful recognition of her leadership."

"Receiving this Gold Medal Award is one of the highlights of my year," Mrs. Harmon said.

Evan M. Spangler, of Fort Shafter, Hawaii, this year's Voice of Democracy winner, read his winning broadcast script and added that each member of the V.F.W. "has made an immeasurable contribution to the posterity of mankind. Your faith has enriched my dedication to American freedom."

Vicites told the delegates that 13 million veterans are eligible for the V.F.W., but "I would rather the V.F.W. become extinct if it meant having another war to increase our membership."

After receiving the J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal Award from Vicites, Pitchess, a former FBI special agent, said Hoover brought him into law enforcement and "he was one of the great Americans of our history—pure Americanism was his trademark."

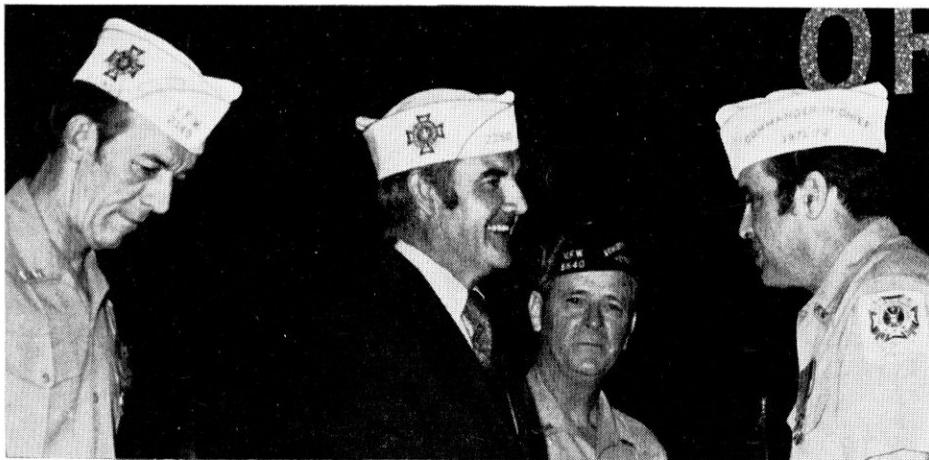
When Vicites presented him with the Space Award, Kraft said "the V.F.W. is composed of many men who were the forerunners of space flight."

"Today, because of the big space effort, the U.S. is the leader in space technology in the world," he said.

Kraft said that now is the time "to take advantage of space technology to benefit those here on earth."

On space cooperation with the Russians, Kraft said "it is important that we gain confidence that we and they are human beings."

Introduced by Vicites who praised him as a dedicated, loyal American and awarded him the Citizenship Gold Medal, Connally received loud applause when he said, "Believe me, there's something basically wrong with a philosophy that gives a higher priority to am-



Above: Sen. George S. McGovern, Democratic candidate for president, is welcomed to the V.F.W. Convention by Commander-in-Chief Vicites (R) as Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Ray Soden (L) and Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Patrick E. Carr look on. (794) Below: Vice President Spiro Agnew and his wife are escorted into the Convention by Commander-in-Chief Vicites. (1042)

nesty for draft dodgers than it does to assistance for veterans and families of men who died in the service of their country" (See page 26).

During the session, American Flag sets were presented to Lt. Gov. Perpich, Mayor Cohen and Mayor Stenvig by Odelle Hudson, National Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor.

Also addressing the delegates were Rep. William Frenzel (Minn.), Supreme Commander Randy Lofgren of the Military Order of the Cootie, and Past V.F.W. Commanders-in-Chief Eugene P. Carver, Paul C. Wolman and Clyde A. Lewis.

At the Distinguished Guests Banquet, Hope announced that the \$1,000 check that accompanied his award would go to the Eisenhower Medical Center in Palm Springs, Calif. The 2,600 at the dinner set another V.F.W. record.

On Tuesday, Aug. 22, Johnson, Dorn and Hartke were the principal speakers (See pages 28 and 29).

Johnson, opposing amnesty, said, "anyone who fails to fulfill this obligation not only begins the destruction of his own freedom but weakens as well the reliance of his fellowman on the unity necessary to preserve liberty."

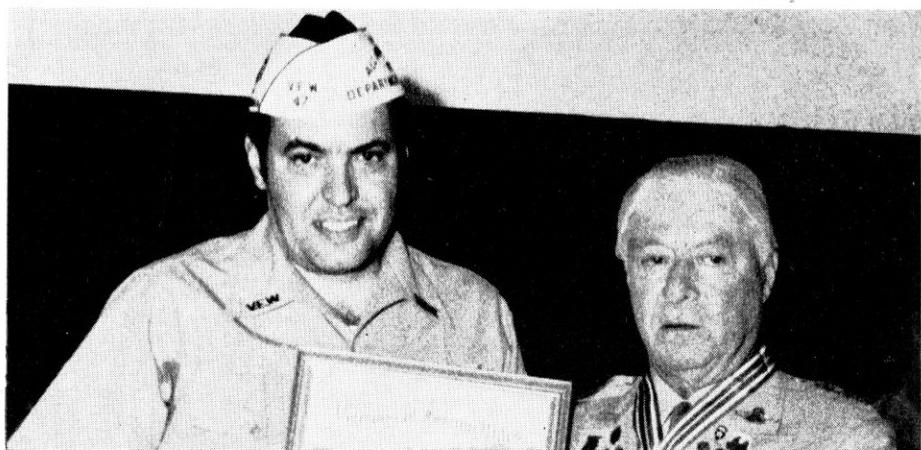
Dorn pledged that the House Veterans Affairs Committee is "going to maintain your veterans preference program, which was begun by the father of our country, George Washington, and we are going to keep the hospital program, the greatest of any kind in the world." Dorn also predicted the Vietnam veteran soon will receive an increase in educational benefits.

Hartke was critical of efforts being made by the federal government in obtaining jobs for idle Vietnam veterans, charging that "the 20 to 24-year-old veteran has an unemployment rate three times as high as a non-veteran."

Highlighting Convention business, delegates voted approval of a By-Law change which raised the national per capita tax by 50 cents to \$2.50.

During the meeting A. O. Soderholm, Senior Vice Commander of the Veterans of World War I, presented a certificate of appreciation to V.F.W. Commander-in-Chief Vicites.

Chairman of several Convention committees also made reports. They were: Past Commander-in-



Above: The Al Jolson Gold Medal is accepted by George Jessel from Commander-in-Chief Vicites. (937) Below: Jiff Mick, from the V.F.W. National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich., gives delegates a wink and a wave as Home Executive Director Sam Story (C) and Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Patrick E. Carr beam their approval. (1010)

Chief James Cothran, Convention Rules; E. Spencer Walton, By-Laws, Rules and Procedure, and Ritual; Past Commander-in-Chief Clyde A. Lewis, Finance and Internal Organization; Past Commander-in-Chief Charles Ralls, Americanism and Community Activities; Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Gallagher, National Security and Foreign Affairs.

Despite the chill and intermittent rain, thousands of V.F.W. and Ladies Auxiliary members and representatives of the armed forces marched for six hours in downtown Minneapolis in what was said to be the city's largest parade.

Andolsek, Jessel and Gray spoke to the delegates Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Andolsek called on the V.F.W. to help restore the "three Rs" to American life—"the three Rs of religion, respect and responsibility."

Gray reminded the delegates that the United States is based on the rule of law, not the rule of men,

and praised policemen as "hard-pressed, often overworked and usually underpaid" men who "display like you a firm conviction that America is worth fighting for" (See page 30).

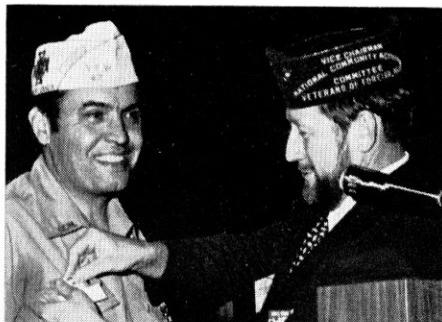
Convention committee chairmen presenting reports were: Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph A. Scerra, Veterans Service, and Thomas B. Dean, General Resolutions.

That night nearly 10,000 persons were on hand in Parade Stadium to witness the annual Million Dollar Pageant of Drums and presentation of awards to the winning drum and bugle corps by Vicites and Mrs. Harmon.

The crowd stayed through to the end although it was another chilly rainy night (See page 36).

Thursday marked another busy day for the delegates highlighted by the speech of Sen. McGovern, the Democratic Party Presidential candidate.

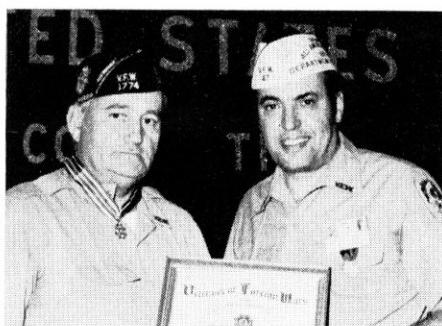
McGovern, whose views on national defense and several other



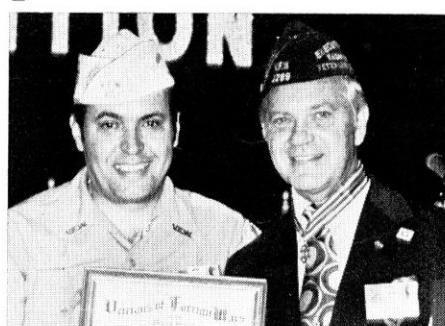
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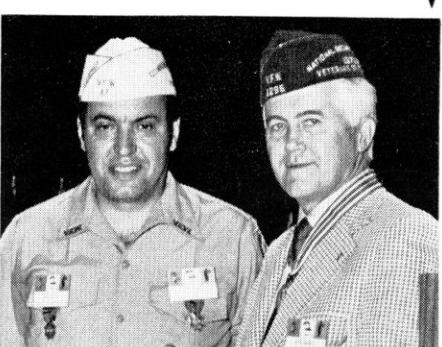


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1. John Staum (R), President, 73rd V.F.W. National Convention Corp., pins delegate badge on shirt of Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites at opening session, (562)
2. Vicites with Quartermaster General J. A. Cheatham, who received the V.F.W. Distinguished Service Medal. (657)
3. Vicites and Past Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater, who was presented the V.F.W. Distinguished Service Medal. (940)
4. Vicites presented Minneapolis Mayor Charles S. Stenvig with the V.F.W. Gold Medal of Merit and Citation. (564)
5. Vicites with Past Commander-in-Chief Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director, V.F.W. Washington Office, who received the V.F.W. Distinguished Service Medal. (1041)



5

issues have differed from the official position taken by the V.F.W. over the years, urged a GI Bill for Vietnam veterans "at least as good" as that provided at the end of World War II." He pledged also increased assistance to handicapped veterans such as paraplegics who need specially equipped housing, restoration to the VA hospital system of its "capability to provide the care that veterans require" and repair of the hospitals "to help them do a better job" (See page 17).

Prior to McGovern's appearance before the Convention, the delegates heard John Todd, National Coordinator of the Vietnam Veterans for a Just Peace (See page 25).

"We are a group of Democrats, Republicans, independents," he explained. "The only criterion is that we served in Vietnam, believed in that cause and now are willing to come back and serve our nation again in telling the American pub-

lic exactly the way we see it."

Todd was presented a Life Membership in the V.F.W. by Commander-in-Chief Vicites.

Also addressing the session was Sen. Walter F. Mondale (Minn.), who discussed veterans legislation (See page 29).

Another feature of the session was the annual appearance of a delegation from the V.F.W. National Home and the talks by three youths residing there: Jiff Mick, Chuck Hendrickson and the 1972 Buddy Poppy Girl, Pam Pashia.

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Ray Soden was presented a citation of recognition by E. Merle Harrison, Administrator, Illinois Veterans Commission.

In the evening the Dixie, Eastern, Big 10 and Western Conferences banquets were held.

Friday morning, prior to the appearance of Agnew, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Patrick E.

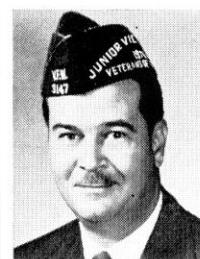
1972-73 NATIONAL OFFICERS



PATRICK E. CARR
Commander-in-Chief



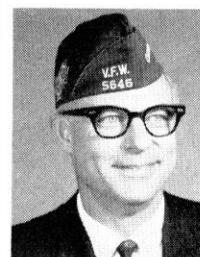
RAY R. SODEN
Senior Vice
Commander-in-Chief



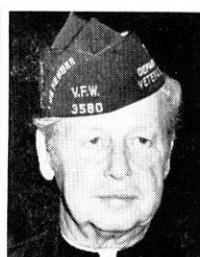
JOHN J. STANG
Junior Vice
Commander-in-Chief



JOHN F. DARGIN JR.
Judge Advocate General



DR. JOSEPH E. LEVER
Surgeon General



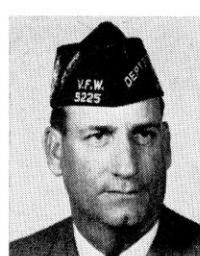
**REV. LAWRENCE
CALKINS**
National Chaplain



J. A. CHEATHAM
Quartermaster General



JULIAN DICKENSON
Adjutant General



J. P. COCKRILL
Chief of Staff



WELDON TALLEY
Inspector General

(Continued on page 39)

Let Us Serve Our Nation

On Friday, Aug. 25, Patrick E. Carr was elected and installed Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at its 73rd annual National Convention in Minneapolis, Minn. Following is his acceptance speech:

This is one of the proudest moments of my life. To be chosen by my comrades as Commander-in-Chief of this great organization is one of the truly great honors that an American citizen may receive.

I am aware, however, that it is more than an honor. It is a very serious responsibility. It is a responsibility which I have long looked forward to, and which I now accept with genuine humility and determination. Never has the United States of America needed the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its patriotic influence more than it does today.

You comrades have spent many hours deliberating over the hundreds of resolutions which were submitted to the delegates of this Convention. Some were adopted and others were rejected. Those which were adopted will control and guide the Veterans of Foreign Wars during the coming year. Let me assure you that as your Commander-in-Chief I shall be bound by those mandates.

There are areas of national concern, however, which I feel impelled to discuss with you at this time, areas in which the course of national and international events may place this nation in great jeopardy.

We have steadfastly supported the bombing of the North, the minning of the harbors of the North and the use of any and all means necessary to effect the release of American prisoners of war.

This is the issue of paramount importance to our nation in Southeast Asia today. We must continue to do whatever is necessary to obtain their release.

To abandon American fighting

men to the slavery of foreign prisons would be to destroy the will of our people ever to fight again. A united effort to preserve our nation and our democratic way of life would become a thing of the past.

Few Americans would be willing to see their loved ones go to war for a government that was unwilling to do all within its power to protect them from the ravages of continuing imprisonment.

Who could be so naive as to believe that a token residual force somewhere in Southeast Asia will pressure the Communist enemy into releasing our prisoners of war when a half million fighting troops in South Vietnam failed to do it.

We all hope there will never be another war. But we also know from history that no nation can remain free unless it is willing to make sacrifices and to fight when necessary for that freedom.

I say to you now that until the last American is released from North Vietnam and Viet Cong prisons, we will never withdraw from our position. Nor will we sit idly by and assume that the POW issue will be satisfactorily resolved by the passing of time.

The release of those men must be a condition precedent to any cessation of bombing of North Vietnam or the removal of the mines from the harbors which supply that aggressor power.

National defense is one of our



Pat Carr puts it all together in his acceptance speech.

gravest concerns—now more than ever, due to the possibility of a completely new attitude becoming the prevailing view in Washington. Beyond that, I have misgivings concerning the nuclear weapons limitation treaty with the Russians. Not because I consider such an agreement entered into in good faith by both sides a bad idea, but because of the long and consistent record of treaties broken by the Russians.

God help us if we adhere to the limitations of that agreement and the Russians do not. We are told that the Soviets have changed their attitude toward us in recent months, but I for one can see no shred of reliable evidence that they have abandoned their 50-year-old ambition and avowed intent to conquer the world for Communism.

Already our armed forces have been reduced below the standards long supported by our own organization. Expenditures for the development of new weapons essential to our national defense are being curtailed each year by Congress, in spite of repeated requests by the Secretary of Defense.

The Army alone has been cut almost in half in the past four years. In 1968 the United States Army had approximately 1,570,000 men and women in uniform. Today that number has shrunk to 861,000.

Russia, on the other hand, continues to increase her military might—both at home and among her



Carr is sworn in by Past Commander-in-Chief Richard Homan.



National officers take their oaths.

satellites. She has surpassed us in and around the Mediterranean. She has practically taken over the Indian Ocean. Throughout the oceans of the world Russian submarines outnumber our own.

Twenty years ago nearly every state in the vicinity of the Mediterranean welcomed us and our Western allies. This is no longer true. Many sea and land bases at which we were once welcome are no longer open to our ships and men.

Twelve years ago we had 65 naval vessels cruising the Mediterranean. Today we have 35. The Soviets, on the other hand, have a fleet of 50 in that one-time "NATO lake."

Our Western allies seem to have forgotten that World War II came about as a result of the complete preoccupation by the free nations of the world with their own internal social and economic problems; and a complete indifference to the requirements of both individual and collective military strength.

If there is one lesson that history has repeatedly sought to teach us, it is that we cannot safely withdraw from the affairs of the world.

History has also sought to teach us that a nation can have but one foreign policy at a time—and one agency to make it. Any other course of action confuses our friends and gives aid and comfort

to our enemies. A good example of this was the effort by many of those in Congress to oppose and interfere with our foreign policy in Southeast Asia. This widely publicized interference has prolonged the war in Vietnam far beyond the time it would have ended with a united front at home. Politics should end at the water's edge.

Superior strength is the only thing the Communist rulers respect. National disunity is not strength, but weakness in its most devastating form. The Communists will take advantage of any sign of weakness to achieve their goals.

No national leader can commit himself to "beg" or "crawl" without reducing his own stature and the stature of the nation he represents. There is an adage as old as time itself that "beggars cannot be choosers." Once our leaders stoop to begging, our enemies will treat us with utter contempt. We will become a second-rate power, devoid of self respect, among the other nations of the world.

The people of America have no responsible alternative but to support the request for money with which to build the B-1 supersonic bomber, the Trident-missile submarine and the anti-ballistic-missile ring around our national capital.

We dare not yield to the clamor for "peace through national disarmament" again. There have been too many wars since the old

Kellogg-Briand Pact purported to outlaw war and the Washington Naval Conference induced us to scrap our fighting ships. Nor will an all-volunteer military force ever be adequate for the defense of this nation in time of war. I doubt that it will even be an effective deterrent to insolent and aggressive acts in time of peace.

From time to time the subject of "amnesty" for draft dodgers and even military deserters crops up in one place or another. In my opinion no citizen of this country should even consider discussing a change in the status of either before the end of the war in Vietnam and the release of every last fighting man held by the enemy. Common decency demands no less of us.

One of the most sacred tenets of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is our obligation to honor the dead who have served this nation in time of war. Our annual participation in Memorial Day services throughout our 53 Departments and our Memorial Service at National Conventions are dedicated to this end—to pay our respect to departed comrades. Every American veteran who has served honorably in the armed forces of this nation in time of war is entitled by his service to be buried in a national cemetery convenient to the members of his or her family.

(Continued on page 52)



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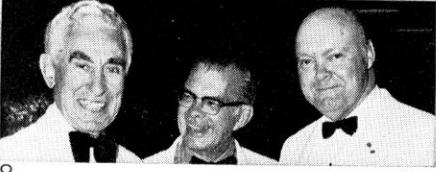
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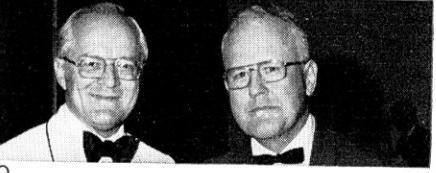
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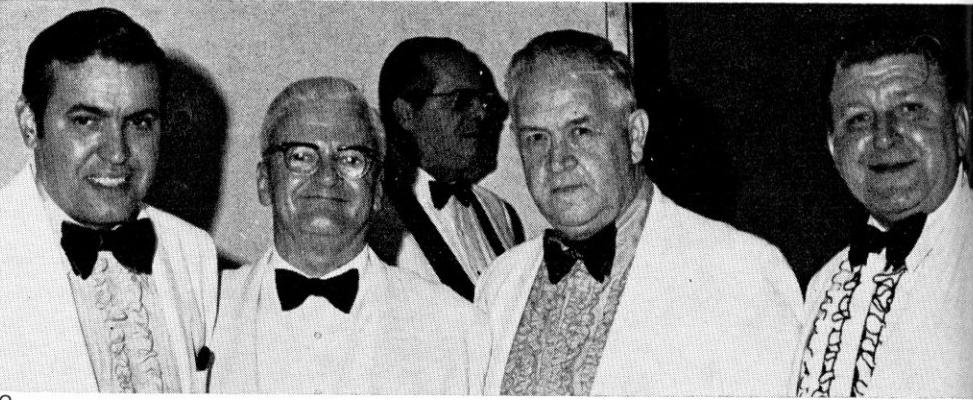


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VFW Distinguished Guests Banquet



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1. Mrs. Dolores Vicites, Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites, Bob Hope and Mrs. Jean Carr. (605)

2. Commander-in-Chief Vicites, Dr. Robert J. Meehan, Surgeon General; John A. Tynan, Inspector General, and John T. Radko, Chief of Staff. (604)

3. Mrs. Shirley Soden, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Ray R. Soden, Kirk Soden, Mayor Lawrence D. Cohen, of St. Paul; Mrs. Cohen, Dr. James W. Reid and Mrs. Lola Reid, National Senior Vice President,

Ladies Auxiliary. (602)

4. Bob Hope and Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Patrick E. Carr.

5. Adj. Gen. Julian Dickenson, Mrs. Dickenson and Rep. John A. Blatnik (Minn.). (700)

6. Mrs. Robert Short and Short. (617)

7. Gov. Wendell Anderson, Aux. Pres. Frances Harmon and Paul Harmon. (701)

8. Past Commanders-in-Chief James Van Zandt, Les Fry and Robert Hansen. (599)

9. Quartermaster Gen. J. A. Cheatham, Past Commander-in-Chief Clyde Lewis. (592)

10. Past Commanders-in-Chief Andy Borg (L) with Commander-in-Chief Vicites. (597)

11. John J. Stang, Judge Advocate Gen., Past Commander-in-Chief Paul Wolman and Rep. Bryan Dorn (S.C.). (591)

12. VOD Winner Evan Spangler, Past Commander-in-Chief John Mahan and the Rev. Charles H. Carpenter, National Chaplain. (593)

Vietnam Vet Speaks Out

John Todd may have been blinded in Vietnam, but he has not lost his vision, as Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites said introducing him Aug. 24 to the delegates to the 73rd National Convention.

Todd, national coordinator of Vietnam Veterans for a Just Peace, lost his eyesight in January, 1969, when the helicopter he was piloting was struck by enemy ground fire.

Vicites presented him with a Life Membership in the V.F.W. while delegates responded with a standing ovation.

"Yes, I was blinded by the war, but there are those Americans who are blinded to the war," he said. "I believe in the cause of this nation and in the cause the nation sent us to fight in."

Todd said American troops were sent "to defend South Vietnam against ruthless invaders, but the greatest limitations ever placed on American soldiers in any war were placed on us."

He described this as "limited flexible response to the enemy."

"Never before has this proud country ever sent men to fight like this," he continued. "It was hard to fight and hard to make the public understand, but we have to tell how and why we should continue to serve in Southeast Asia."

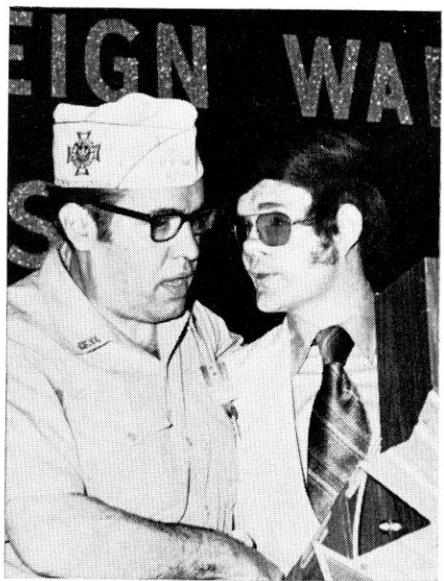
Explaining that Vietnam Veterans for a Just Peace was organized to counteract the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Todd said "something had to be done because it is incumbent on ourselves as American veterans to answer their lies."

Todd said "many Americans have been taken in by North Vietnam's propaganda, but we should take the North Vietnamese very seriously."

"He made it clear that his intention was to take over in Southeast Asia," he continued. "He laid it on the table."

"I propose that American peace groups put their intentions on the table."

Todd said they argue that Vietnamization is a "failure" because "they want us out, not with peace, they just want us out with no re-



gard for those prisoners or men missing in action, with no guarantees of their release."

According to Todd, the United States has beaten the North Vietnamese militarily and dissident groups are attempting to salvage victory for them by demanding immediate, total withdrawal.

"The South Vietnamese have fought bravely for victory," he continued.

"The Vietnam Veterans Against the War are for North Vietnam, not peace," he said. "We are the Vietnam veterans for America and the sad thing is that many Americans ask why we fought in South Vietnam. We did because the South Vietnamese people have a right to the freedom we enjoy."

"The South Vietnamese are fighting every day, every minute," he asserted. "They are not discussing it—they are doing it."

Through the policy of Vietnamization, Todd continued, the South Vietnamese are being given a choice, "a gift of American weapons and when you give a man a weapon he can point it at Saigon or at Hanoi. They have pointed it at Hanoi."

"The United States should be congratulated for giving them a choice to overcome brutal aggression."

Praising the V.F.W., Todd said "thank God for the V.F.W. and the wonderful work it is doing." ■

13. Past Commanders-in-Chief Cooper T. Holt, Tim Murphy and Byron Gentry. (600)

14. Past Commanders-in-Chief Richard Homan (L) and Ray Gallagher (R) with Sheriff Peter Pitchess. (596)

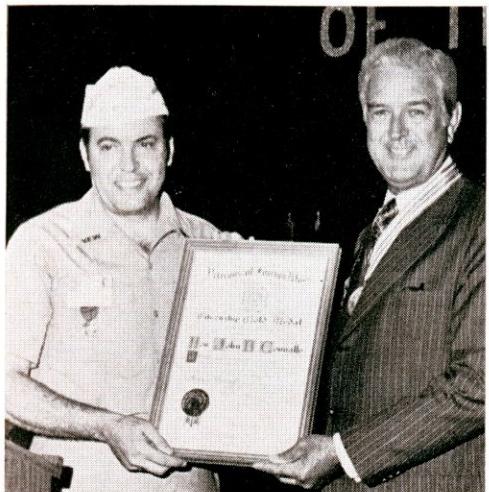
15. Past Commander-in-Chief Hansen, Gov. Robert Docking, of Kansas, and Mayor Charles Stenvig, of Minneapolis. (601)

16. Past Commanders-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater, Joseph Scerra and Richard Roudebush and his son. (594)

17. Past Commanders-in-Chief Ray Brannaman, Charles Ralls and Rep. Bill Frenzel (Minn.) (595)



"Reach Up, America"



Vicites presents V.F.W. Citizenship Gold Medal Award and Citation to Connally. (689)

Former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally was the keynote speaker at the opening of the 73rd National V.F.W. Convention in Minneapolis, Aug. 21. Before his speech he received the V.F.W. Citizenship Gold Medal from Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites. Here is his address.

As you embark on your 1972 Convention I want to share a few thoughts with you. They are thoughts about this country and where we are and where we're going, because I know that you and I are equally concerned and are equally hopeful that the native intelligence of the American people will prevail despite the severe trials and challenges that confront us.

Today, we hear some of our leaders implore us to "come home, America."

That causes some of us to wonder: Just where have we been? Have we lost our national purpose? Should we pull down the shades—or withdraw into our shell—and let the rest of the world determine the

future for us? Shall we retreat?

These are far from easy times in the history of civilized man. There is racial strife and religious conflict in the world. Innocent people are being killed in war—not just in Vietnam, but in Northern Ireland and, until recently, in such far-flung places as Biafra, Bangladesh, the Punjab and the Southern Sudan.

No one can claim exclusive rights to violence and bloodshed in this troubled world.

No one can dispute, however, that these are especially troubled, tormented times in our own nation—perhaps more troubled and tormented than America has been in a hundred years.

We can think back over the past few years and consider the war in Vietnam, and what it has produced at home. We can think about the riots in the streets and on the college campuses. We can think about the rebellion of the young against parents, and against our traditional institutions, and we can think about the drug culture and what it's done to change the fabric of American life.

We have seen vast changes in our educational system. Our tradition of local school control is threatened by the court decisions on state and local financing. And the courts have said to school districts throughout the nation that they must bus young children to schools far from their neighborhoods in order to impose quotas and achieve racial balance.

All of this is part of the torment America has been undergoing. But this is only part of the story.

You and I are seeing today the most bitter attack on the free enterprise system ever launched in the history of the United States.

You and I are seeing today at the same time an attack on the free enterprise system and an all-out assault on the very fundamentals of American government. Many, many Americans have come to believe that government can no longer respond to their needs—that their leaders cannot be trusted and our national goals are worthless.

We are witnessing the full flowering of a philosophy that men who work must be taxed to the limit to support those who don't or won't; a philosophy that the welfare state is the only answer to poverty and suffering; a philosophy that America should be ashamed of its wealth, ashamed of its growth, ashamed of its strength. Believe me, there's

something basically wrong with a philosophy that gives a higher priority to amnesty for draft dodgers than it does to assistance for veterans and the families of men who died in the service of their country.

I, for one, totally reject that philosophy.

I don't think most Americans are ready to sound the trumpet of retreat. We're not ready to retreat into the swamp of a welfare existence that dictates every national policy and overwhelms every other national concern.

Welfare is a major problem. No American should be denied access to health care, opportunity for work, or the means to obtain the necessities of life if he is truly unable to support himself. But welfare is only one problem. Welfare does not turn the wheels of progress in America and it never can and it never will.

In my opinion we Americans are not ready to retreat from responsibility. This nation neither sought nor asked nor anticipated the role of leadership which it now occupies in the world. In many ways we were not even equipped to assume that role. We had to do it through trial and error.

But the fact is we did it. In a sense, this great nation of ours was the only survivor of World War II. We were not bombed or shelled or decimated by war. We came out of the war stronger than we went in, and a quarter of a century ago we were the only free power on earth capable of restoring what we and other countries had destroyed.

We weren't hungry for the job but we did it. And as we worked with compassion and responsibility and gave leadership to a war-torn world, we grew even more powerful, and in time it came to pass that we were probably bearing too much of the load.

The enemies against whom many of us in this room bore arms eventually became great economic powers. They became strong friends of America—and we learned that it's far better to have strong friends than it is to have strong enemies. But the fact remains that Germany and Japan are not only our allies, but also our competitors.

Today the world is a competitive world, and perhaps the greatest challenge we face is one of competition. Americans no longer live on an exalted plane. We can no longer make political military decisions without giving due regard to the

cost of those decisions, because we have expended our reserves and exhausted our credits, and if we're to compete in the real world of the 1970's and the 1980's we must out-work and outthink and outproduce the other fellow.

—But not retreat to some sort of neo-isolationism that rejects our friends and encourages our foes.

—Not lend our voices to the propaganda of Hanoi nor beg at the feet of any country on earth.

—Not abandon our commitments and destroy our credibility to friend and foe alike.

Believe me, my friends, if we do not exercise the role of leadership we have worked so hard to attain—if we do not compete in the political arena and compete in the economic arena—if we do not provide the security shield for freedom in the world then no one else can do it and the cheering will be loud and long in the capitals of countries that don't hold freedom so dear in their hearts.

Where is the future of America? Surely, our future does not lie in building a wall around this country. The future is in your hands and in the minds of young people whom you influence, and in the stimulation and drive that you give them and the understanding they must have if this nation is to stay ahead.

It's tough sometimes to be number one. But it's always dangerous for a democracy to be number two.

President Nixon didn't go to China to watch them sweep the snow off the streets. He went because 800 million Chinese are going to emerge into this world society as a great political and economic force—probably sooner than later.

The President didn't go to the Soviet Union because he wanted to be the first American President to see the Kremlin. He went because 225 million Russians constitute an immense political and economic force in this world—and because the arms race ought to be ended if we're ever to have safety and peace.

When he went to China, when he went to Moscow, he didn't negotiate on his knees. He negotiated as the head of the greatest power on earth—and that's how you get agreements that stick and peace that endures.

Those of you here did your part in making this country strong, despite all of our failings and all of our problems yet to be resolved.

Now where do we go?

That's up to us, just as it is to every generation. The answer depends on whether or not we are willing merely to pick the ripened fruit from the trees planted so lovingly and nurtured so carefully by those who preceded us; or whether or not we are also willing to go out and do a bit of plowing and planting, and nurturing and growing, so that those who follow us might also enjoy an enlarged and enriched existence in this land.

Not just the material wealth this land of abundance can produce.

I'm talking about the privileges, the rights, the freedoms that the American people have a right to expect after 200 years of constant striving.

The V.F.W. has been a responsible leader throughout its history. It has stood for the ideals and traditions of a prosperous, compassionate America. Some of these ideals and traditions are not so popular in some quarters today. But unless they remain the keystone of everything we want to be as a nation—everything our toil and blood has produced in this great orchard of human achievement—then we are indeed in deep trouble and we may indeed be looking for a way home.

I have faith that this won't be the case. With all of our frailties and weaknesses and shortcomings, we have never shirked responsibility. We have not lost our way. We have not created a sick society. To the contrary, we have created a system and a form of government that has fed better, fed more, housed better, housed more, clothed better, clothed more, given more people more time and more leisure and more freedom than any other system ever devised by man in the history of the world.

Our task of building and improving has not ended—may never end. But when I hear someone say, "Come home, America," I want to respond reach up, America, for the moral strength to meet any test, bear any burden, brave any danger. Reach out, America, to the people of the world with a compassionate concern. And reach up again, America, for the divine guidance to strengthen the spiritual fiber of this nation so that our goals always exceed our grasp, that our dreams lighten our labors, that our hopes are boundless for an expanding society that knows no limits, for a society that bows to no obstacles or hardships in our quest for greater freedom for ourselves and all mankind. ■

Vietnam Veteran Is An Active Citizen



The Vietnam veteran is becoming an active part of his community rather than a young man "who tends to come home quietly and slip anonymously back into the populace."

With those words Donald E. Johnson, Administrator of the Veterans Administration, reviewed for the delegates to the 73rd V.F.W. National Convention in Minneapolis, Aug. 22, strides being made in benefits for the Vietnam veteran and his response to them.

"We know that our new veterans are participating actively and successfully in the programs that have been designed with them in mind," Johnson said.

"We know that despite the invisibility, real or imagined, that has been attributed to them, they are enriching our society and are preparing themselves for the roles of leadership that will be their legacy in a few short years," he noted.

A recent study comparing use of GI Bill training today with that of the World War II and Korean GI Bills at similar points in their history shows that Vietnam veterans have been more inclined to use their entitlement to schooling than veterans of the two previous eras.

"Nearly 37% of the Vietnam Era veterans enrolled in classroom training during the first six years of the present GI Bill, compared with a six-year figure of slightly more than 34% for Korean and nearly 33% for World War II," he continued. "Further, approximately 22% of Vietnam veterans enrolled in college, compared with 20% of Korean veterans and less than 14% for those of World War II."

On this basis, Johnson said that "Vietnam veterans are as fully aware of the importance of their veterans rights and are as inclined to use their benefits as their brothers and fathers.

"Widely spread claims that these young men are not interested and not participating have no factual basis."

Johnson warned that anti-military attitudes—"a half-step removed from an anti-veteran attitude"—"if permitted to continue unopposed could endanger the benefits that have been structured for our Vietnam veterans.

This could happen purposefully but more probably unconsciously and without malice on the part of those who come into contact with these veterans. It could take place as these deserving young men meet again with their families and friends, as they settle back into their neighborhoods, as they return to school, as they meet with prospective employers.

"Obviously, this will never happen, if the V.F.W. has anything to say about it."

Johnson said that progress made so far in veterans legislation will continue. "President Nixon has made it clear on many occasions that he considers veterans a special group of citizens entitled to special help from a nation deeply indebted to them," Johnson pointed out.

He announced that his appointment by President Nixon as VA Administrator to the Domestic Council, the first such recognition of the VA on this cabinet level body, "is indicative of his feeling

for veterans and for the high priority he places on good service to them."

He explained that the Council formulates national domestic policy recommendations for Nixon's consideration and also coordinates the establishment of national priorities.

"When President Nixon summoned me to his office to accept the appointment he reiterated his strong feeling in regard to providing and implementing beneficial programs for veterans," Johnson continued. "He said that national goals and objectives could not be complete without giving deep consideration to the needs of veterans and measures to meet those needs."

Further strides in veterans legislation in recent years which Johnson cited were record VA budgets up from \$7.5 billion in 1969 to \$12.5 billion currently.

"The President's belief in a special status for veterans is manifested by the special allowances granted VA in hiring personnel when other agencies were holding the line," he said. "This policy has allowed VA to add some 30,000 new employees in the last three fiscal years, 15,000 of whom are Vietnam veterans."

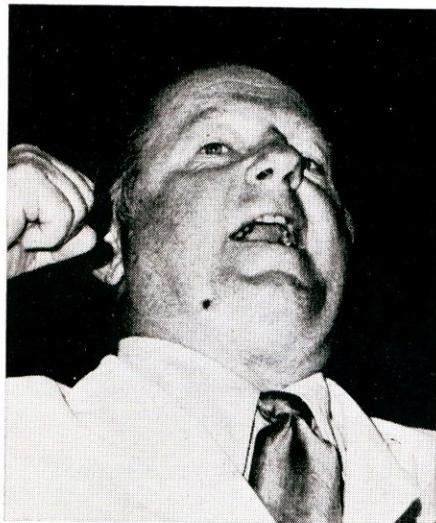
Strides made in VA hospital and medical care were listed by Johnson:

"The medical portion of VA's budget has gone from \$1.4 billion in fiscal 1969 to \$2.7 billion in the current fiscal year. Construction money has increased from \$8 million in fiscal 1969 to \$155 million this year, the greatest amount in 21 years. Four new hospitals have opened in the last three years, two more will open this year and five more are under construction."

"Nearly a thousand new special medical units have been opened throughout the VA system" during the three years he has been VA Administrator.

Today we have 32% more doctors on duty than we had when I took office as head of VA, 16% more dentists, 31% more nurses, and 20,000 additional medical personnel."

Johnson said this year VA will treat a million patients, handle 11 million out-patient visits and on an average day have 167,000 ex-servicemen receiving VA medical care, 248 new medical units will be added to its hospital system, 12 new drug dependence centers will be added to the 32 already in existence and that 62,000 will be trained in health work.



Rep. W. J. Bryan Dorn



Sen. Vance Hartke



Sen. Walter Mondale

Congressional Leaders Back Vets

Three Congressional leaders joined in promising wider and more liberalized benefits for veterans, especially for those of the Vietnam War, at the 73rd National Convention of the V.F.W. in Minneapolis, Minn.

Sen. Vance Hartke (Ind.), Chairman, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, was sharply critical of efforts being made to provide jobs for idled Vietnam veterans in his talk Aug. 22.

"I want real veterans preference and they are not getting it today," he asserted. "Go into that state employment office and look for that veterans employment representative—it's all fancy talk and press releases."

"The veteran comes in and he is looked on as some kind of freak. The 20 to 24-year-old veteran has an unemployment rate three times as high as a non-veteran."

Rep. William Jennings Bryan Dorn (S. C.), of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, also addressed the delegates Aug. 22 and pledged "we are going to maintain your veterans preference program, which originated with the father of our country."

Dorn said that George Washington decided that the men who fought in the Revolutionary War were "something special who deserved special consideration for leaving home and fireside to go to the firing line."

"We are going to keep the hospital program, the greatest of any kind in the world—you blazed the trail years ago—and it is the least we can do."

"They can talk about national health and life insurance but I will not sit on that committee and preside over the phasing out of the hospital system."

Sen. Walter F. Mondale (Minn.), member, Senate Labor and Public Works Committee which handled much veterans legislation before the Hartke Committee was established, told the V.F.W. on Thursday, Aug. 24:

"Sometimes I get the impression the Vietnam veteran is the real forgotten man. After World War II and Korea the men came home and were treated as heroes. We saw that they had programs to see to it they got the help they needed."

"What about those men from Vietnam?"

Mondale said too often they are treated with indifference, as indicated by the current GI Bill which provides only 62% of the benefits contained in the post-WWII law.

He said health care is particularly difficult to obtain for veterans addicted to narcotics and often is not available.

"We have visited the frustration of the Vietnam War on the Vietnam veteran," he continued. "We ought to move swiftly to adopt a GI Bill equal to the one the other veterans got."

Sen. Hartke said the committee he heads is looking into establishment of retirement homes for older veterans, especially the 1.5 million surviving WWI veterans whose average age is now 76.

"I would like to do something so they could be treated in their own homes," he said. "We have to have

some type of home care run by veterans for veterans."

"We need your help. As far as the veteran is concerned the question is not whether it should be done—you didn't ask when you held up your hand whether it should be done. We need a real mobilization to pay the dues to those people who believe they live in the best country in the world."

Hartke, critical of veterans who do not belong to a veterans organization, said "seldom do I see the nonjoiner give the veterans groups a second thought, but he is content to take the benefits and he pays no credit to those who gained them."

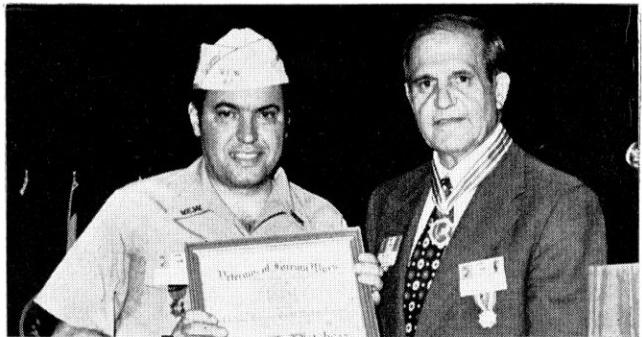
"In some circles it is even fashionable to slight the veterans organizations. We have all heard the term 'professional veteran.' I say this should be a compliment. It takes a professional to win something. The organized groups have worked long and hard in the veteran's behalf and they continue to insist from Capitol Hill to the State House on assistance, better hospital care and rightful benefits."

Hartke disputed the charge that Vietnam veterans are coming home ignored by the "bulk of the American people."

He emphasized this is not true of veterans organizations "and I am proud to say not by Congress."

Relying on the guidance and advice of veterans organizations, Hartke said, "my committee has produced a good bill asking for the same level of educational benefits for today's veterans

(Continued on page 57)



Sheriff Pitchess receives 1972 Hoover Award from Vicites. (670)



A Hoover Award is accepted by Gray from Vicites. It was made in memory of the late FBI chief. (927)

J. Edgar Hoover Praised

Two of the nation's leading law enforcement officers who were presented awards named in his honor praised J. Edgar Hoover, the late director of the FBI, as a man dedicated to the United States and devoted to its preservation.

They were L. Patrick Gray III, acting director of the FBI, and Sheriff Peter Pitchess, of Los Angeles County, Calif.

Accepting the J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal Award posthumously awarded to Hoover, Gray called him "this enlightened pioneer of professional law enforcement, whose distinguished career spanned one quarter of our nation's history."

"He waged a lifelong battle against the forces of lawlessness, both criminal and subversive," Gray said. "He refused to compromise principle. He never shirked responsibility. He had unyielding devotion to the rule of law and an unquenchable thirst for justice."

"J. Edgar Hoover loved his country and lived his conviction that America is worth fighting for."

Pitchess, a former FBI agent, said of Hoover that "I came to know this great man intimately and I was privileged to visit with him on many occasions during the last several years of his life."

"He was a great inspiration to me and his programs and principles were a priceless influence on the entire field of police administration. He has left an indelible stamp upon the memories of all who cherish the principles on which this country was founded—on which it has flourished—and on which its future depends."

Gray deplored the current tendency to mock and ridicule "the valorous deeds of our battle-line defenders. . . . Scorn from the enemy is to be anticipated but it is not expected from fellow Americans."

However, Gray continued, the freedom to criticize "must be jealously guarded."

Regardless of critics who ignore America's achievements, Gray said, "I believe the overwhelming majority of our fellow citizens share an unswerving faith in America and have no reluctance to voice their pride and confidence in our institutions."

"I am convinced that in most circles it is still not considered outdated to exhibit love of country and respect for our Flag."

While Americans, such as those who belong to the V.F.W., are concerned with the nation's defense, Gray said, "we must also never for-

get our obligation to the brave Americans remaining imprisoned by a barbaric enemy."

"We pray for the early return of our servicemen being held prisoners of war and those missing in action. They must not be forgotten by us."

Gray warned also that in confronting dissent, it must be remembered that the United States is a government of laws not of men and that "we must condemn without qualification the use of force or violence to effect changes in our society."

Praising the nation's police as being in "frontline combat against the forces of internal discord," Gray said, "he battles daily against the small band of our own citizens who have declared war on America."

"Fortunately, our hardpressed, often overworked and usually underpaid law enforcement officers display like you a firm conviction that America is worth fighting for and we are in their debt," he said.

Pitchess said the United States needs "more than ever before a re-dedication of the people to the V.F.W.'s style of Americanism and idealism.

"We need a commitment and a total involvement by all the good people of this nation to fight the war against crime," he continued.

"Once again your great organization must take the leadership and set the example for the rest of this nation," he said. "You must demand that the courts of our nation speed up their trials, stiffen their penalties and follow the principle of a speedy and just trial.

"Court reform in this nation is long overdue. You must demand that the Supreme Court of the United States and the supreme courts of our states stay within their judicial functions and stop legislating.

"You must demand improved systems of custody and corrections and you must see that your law enforcement officers throughout this nation are properly trained, properly compensated and properly supported in their effort to protect mankind and to serve you."

Pitchess compared the war against crime with the fighting in Korea and Vietnam where the troops were not permitted to win, continuing, "we must not let that happen at home—with your support we will win this war against crime."

Vote— It's Your Right!

Every four years the American people—not enough of them, unfortunately—go to the polls to elect a new president or re-elect an incumbent chief executive.

At the same time they decide on all members of the House of Representatives and a third of the Senate, as well as other officials in their states, cities and counties.

Under its By-Laws the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is prohibited from participating in partisan politics. This is as it should be. This organization is composed of men of all political persuasions who put the nation's well-being first.

As a non-partisan organization, however, the V.F.W. is not prevented from speaking out on issues defined within the framework of its congressionally chartered purposes and the mandates adopted at its National Conventions.

Thus when V.F.W. members assess candidates before making their choices, here are some of the questions they might consider.

For instance, what is the candidates' position on veterans benefits? If they are running for re-election to Congress, have they voted favorably on measures that would widen them or have they balked? Have they allied themselves with forces that would endanger the Veterans Administration? If they are seeking election for the first time, how do they stand on veterans legislation and the VA?

Have the candidates become identified with morally, if not legally, seditious elements whose practical aid and comfort to the enemy have strengthened Hanoi, thereby continuing the Vietnam War and increasing human suffering and bringing death to

even more American servicemen?

Have the candidates spoken out against the barbarous treatment of American war prisoners or men missing in action? Have they demanded an accounting of them from Hanoi? Have they called on the North Vietnamese to abide by the Geneva Convention, which they themselves signed in 1957? Have they even hinted at abandoning these men in a headlong rush to get out of Vietnam now? Have their comments been used by Hanoi to demoralize the prisoners? Have they catered to the mob by implying that flying the Viet Cong flag is an expression of First Amendment rights and that American Flag desecration is not treachery?

What is their stand on amnesty for draft dodgers? Do the candidates favor punishing them according to the law or do they advocate bringing them home from whatever safe haven they have found, in a fatuous attempt at "healing the wounds?" Would these office-seekers apply military justice to deserters?

What do the candidates have to say about American defense and national security? Do any of them appeal to what seems to be anti-military sentiment? Would any of them slash the Defense Department budget to the point that America's armed forces would be so weakened as to render this country as impotent as a shorn Samson? Through this weakness would they have the United States abandon its commitments abroad? Would they revive the old, discredited isolationism that cost this country so dearly at the outset of World War II?

Aside from these vital issues, this election year is going to be a crucial one for veterans if only because hordes of newly enfranchised 18, 19 and 20-year-olds will be flocking to the polls for the first time.

For the most part they are imbued with an idealism that often rejects reality, that demands instant change, that places charisma before content.

Because so many of them are still dependent on someone else for their needs, they can devote full time between now and election day to promoting their candidates and causes. Someone has predicted that 5 million of them will be out working "motivated by sheer hate."

It is doubtful that even a few

of these youthful activists have any comprehension of the pressing needs of veterans or the wartime suffering most of them underwent before they were old enough to cast their first ballot.

This recalls the old appealing argument that if a person is old enough to be drafted or to fight he is old enough to vote. This is beside the point. The plain fact is that veterans must get out and vote in even larger numbers than ever before if they are going to counteract the influence these teenagers are exerting far out of proportion to their actual numbers. Events of the past years have shown how easily and readily they can be manipulated by emotional, demagogic appeals to take to the streets, loot, pillage, burn, destroy.

To make your vote and the ballots of hundreds of your friends and neighbors count, V.F.W. members can volunteer as poll watchers for whichever party they choose. This is another way in which community services may be performed.

Ballot box hanky-panky comes in a variety of time-tested ways, varying from state to state and precinct to precinct, but here are some of the tricks to be on guard against:

Chain balloting in which a pre-marked and blank ballot are used simultaneously, but only the pre-marked one finds its way into the box; absentee voting of non-existent persons; illegal or rigged voting machines; voting for money or threats of losing welfare or jobless pay, and duping or distracting poll watchers by moving polling places, provoking arguments or even drugging them.

Being a poll watcher is not a glamorous way to spend election day, but you will be rewarded by the knowledge that you have helped assure honesty in voting.

One of the hazards of American political life is that the average citizen becomes bored with all the campaigning long before election day. But as veterans you have the best reason of all to be aware of what is going on. Don't let apathy and indifference take hold. You have a stake in the electoral process. You were willing to lay down your lives to protect it in the five wars fought by men who belong to the V.F.W.

Consider the issues. Consider the men. Then vote. You fought for that right. ■



DEPARTMENT
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA



V.F.W. on parade

Intermittent rain and temperatures near 50 failed to dampen the spirits of marchers or cool the enthusiasm of onlookers who turned out by the thousands for the annual V.F.W. Military Parade held Tuesday evening, Aug. 22, during the 1972 National Convention in Minneapolis, Minn. Saluting the American Flag as it passes the reviewing stand (photo above) are (L-R) Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Patrick E. Carr, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Ray Soden, National Auxiliary President Frances Harmon and Adjutant General Julian Dickenson.

Most Americans are gravely concerned over the fate of our servicemen being held as prisoners of war by Communist forces in Indochina.

The feelings of Patrick E. Carr, the new Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, are considerably more intense. He is deeply angry and frustrated.

More than most of us, Pat Carr has an understanding of the plight of those fighting men who are captives of the enemy and who bide their time behind bars and barbed wire.

Twenty-eight years ago, he was a prisoner of war himself.

He suffered the indignities and, sometimes, the cruelties of life as a POW. He fought malnutrition at best and starvation at worst. He knows the danger of the boredom that can atrophy a man's mind and of the vermin that can ravage his body. He experienced the pain of feet rendered raw on march which took a helter-skelter course across a vast area of what is now Poland and East Germany as guards herded him and his fellow prisoners ahead of the advancing Russians.

But the V.F.W. leader does not attempt to equate his own experiences with those of his countrymen who are captives of the Asian Communists.

"We never had a feeling of despair," he said. "Disappointments, yes, but we never had reason to give up hoping. We had news regularly. Someone in another part of the camp had a radio and there was news from BBC which was passed on to every room. When we first learned of the Battle of the Bulge, we were very depressed. The Germans were claiming that their forces had advanced to Antwerp and that they had surrounded two Allied armies. BBC was silent; it didn't mention the battle for two or three days.

"But through it all we never had any doubt that our side would win, that our people would come and get us. All we had to do was survive."

I'm sure that today's prisoners in North Vietnam do not have the same kind of hope. To begin with, they probably get no news at all. I don't know how much association they have, one with the other. We mixed freely with other prisoners.

"We didn't have the propagan-

da sessions to which they are obviously subjected.

"They probably haven't got a great reason for hope.

"I'm convinced that we've got to get them out by any means possible," Carr declared. "We have to commit every resource that the U.S. possesses. If it means the redeployment of a large military force in Southeast Asia and invading North Vietnam in order to

"And while we do, we must do everything possible to bring about the release of those men in Southeast Asia. We can never permit ourselves to forget fellow Americans are languishing in the rot and filth of prisons in Vietnam. We can never relax until every one of them is home again."

Carr said he believes Hanoi's leaders will be willing to negotiate "some sort of a settlement

We Must Free Our POWs



New V.F.W. Commander-in-Chief Patrick E. Carr and his wife Jean with six of their seven children. (971)

get them, then we must do just that.

"If we don't get those prisoners out, we will not survive as a free nation. The moral fiber of our country, the willingness of our people to defend it, will disintegrate."

Carr said he has assigned no higher priority in his duties as V.F.W. Commander-in-Chief than that of "working as diligently and as effectively as I can" for the release of all American POWs held in Indochina.

"This is going to be an extremely critical year," he emphasized. "It will be a vital year for the V.F.W. There is a great deal for us to do. We must increase our membership, we must be zealous in our protection of veterans' benefits and we must work effectively in behalf of a strong defense posture for the United States. We must strive for those objectives without letup."

by Christmas if there is no letup in our present attitude of toughness, of our bombing and our blockade. I don't know that it would be an enduring thing, but I firmly believe shooting in that part of Southeast Asia will be over by Christmas.

"Once the election is over and they see that our attitude is set, they will be willing to talk."

"But if they do not engage in serious and meaningful negotiations, I believe we must do whatever is necessary to get those men back. If force is necessary, then we must use force," the Commander-in-Chief declared.

The urgency is pointed up by the then-and-now contrast. Never before have Americans been held as prisoners of war as long as some who were captured by the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong.

Carr was a POW 8½ months. At least one American has been a prisoner of the North Vietnamese

8½ years.

Carr was 21 when he was captured. He was an enlisted man—an engineer and waist gunner in a B-24 Liberator crew of the 778th Squadron, 464th Bomb Group, a unit of the Italy-based 15th Air Force.

Sgt. Carr knew the air war well. Up to Aug. 9, 1944, he had flown 39 combat missions. Seldom had his plane escaped unscathed from

from barrage flak. Tracking flak comes toward you in a straight line. I had seen it before, but it never got to us."

This time it did. The B-24's left wing was shattered.

"I raised up to look. I was deathly afraid of fire," Carr said, "and I wanted to make certain that we weren't on fire. There was a blinding flash. Then I woke up. I was in the tail of the airplane and it

by Howard Silber



Upon assuming office, Commander-in-Chief Carr presented a Past Commander-in-Chief pin to Joseph L. Vicites (L). (1075)

the wall of German anti-aircraft or the death-spitting fighter planes which guarded every target.

"We were hit almost every time, but never in a vital spot," Carr recalled. "No member of our crew was ever touched."

Carr's plane took off the morning of Aug. 9. It was supposed to be a relatively easy mission, hitting strategic targets in and near Budapest, capital of Hungary, according to the briefers. Not much flak could be brought to bear on any one bomber at any time, they had said.

It was a hum-drum flight across the rugged mountains of Yugoslavia and into the Danube Valley. And then Buda and Pest, twin cities astride the Danube. It is a beautiful place, a colorful place.

But on this day it was an angry place. Ugly puffs of flak rose to meet the American bombers.

"I saw it coming," Carr said. "You can distinguish tracking flak

was floating down. It had broken off—the plane had broken in half. I climbed to the big opening and bailed out."

Carr guided himself toward a field at the edge of the city. He could see well—houses, roads, trees, farm fields.

Then he heard sharp explosions overhead. "There must be planes there," he thought and then looked. Black bursts were mushrooming near his parachute. They were shooting at him.

"That was the only time I really got scared," he recalled. "There was no time for me to be afraid on the ship. But now I was scared."

"I pulled the shroud lines as much as I dared to evade the fire. They didn't hit. I guess they had my range but not my rate of fall."

The firing stopped and Carr prepared to light in that field. But it wasn't over.

"I could see civilians running.

We had been told that if civilians got hold of you, you were in real danger," he said.

"When I hit the ground, a fellow was standing there. He had a rifle. I held my hands up, just as high as I could. And he put the rifle to his shoulder and took aim at me. I didn't believe there was any hope. I felt he was going to shoot me.

"But then a German soldier came running out of a stand of corn behind me. He had a pistol in his hand. He was yelling something. The guy put the rifle down."

Carr was one of five members of his crew to survive. Five others perished.

He had suffered a neck injury. But before he was hospitalized for treatment, his captors put him on exhibition around Budapest for the people to see."

"They shook their fists at me and spat at me," he related.

Four weeks later—after hospitalization and interrogation—Carr was removed to Stalag Luft IV, a compound for captured airmen near the Baltic.

A large place, with British and Polish prisoners as well as Americans, it was almost escapeproof, at least for an American who did not speak German or an East European language.

"We had our plans, though," Carr said. "We tried two tunnels while I was there. But both were discovered."

The diet for Carr and the other prisoners was marginal—ersatz coffee for breakfast, one pot to a barracks room; soup made with vegetables and, at times, horse-meat for lunch; boiled potatoes at night. The occasional Red Cross packages were shared by four men.

Carr saw prisoners shot. One man in his room jumped out the window, not to escape but merely to avoid walking down a long corridor. A captain ordered a tower guard to shoot.

"It was clear the guard didn't want to kill him. He hesitated. The captain continued to shout and wave his arms. The guard took aim and fired," Carr said.

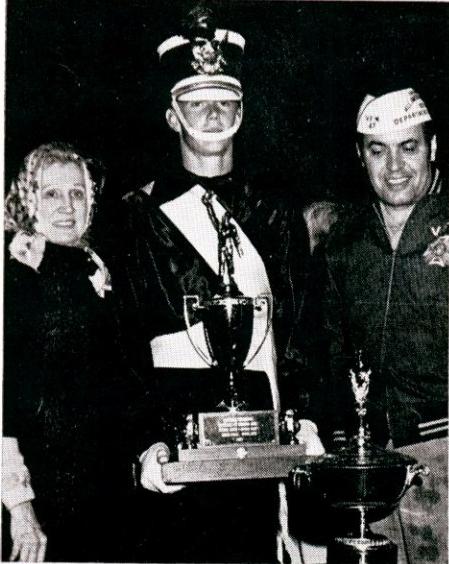
Several prisoners who went berserk were shot off the fence. Sometimes a guard would beat a prisoner.

"One lifted me off my feet when he hit me across the buttocks with a big, wide leather belt," Carr said.

(Continued on page 54)

Pageant of Drums

JUNIOR DRUM & BUGLE CORPS			
1. Cavaliers, Post 3579, Park Ridge, Ill.	(86.95)	\$1,500	
2. Racine Kilties, Post 2823, Burlington, Wis.	(86.65)	1,000	
3. Argonne Rebels, Post 2111, Great Bend, Kan.	(86.35)	800	
4. St. Andrew's Bridgemen, Post 226, Bayonne, N. J.	(84.15)	700	
5. Racine Explorer Scouts, Post 1391, Racine, Wis.	(78.65)	600	
6. Knights of Kewanee, Post 8078, Kewanee, Ill.	(78.60)	550	
7. Imperials of Pembroke, Post 3403, S. Boston, Mass.	(77.55)	500	



1

Despite a cold, rainy evening, a crowd of 8,000 turned out for the Million Dollar Pageant of Drums held Wednesday, Aug. 23, during the 73rd annual V.F.W. National Convention in Minneapolis, Minn.

1. Roger Rousell (C), Cavaliers, Post 3579, Park Ridge, Ill., receives Jr. Drum and Bugle Corps championship trophies from Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites (R) and National Auxiliary President Frances Harmon. (1035)

2. Best in Parade and Jr. Bands contest trophies went to Band of Gold, Dist. 9, Fla. Shown are Mrs. Harmon, Denise East, Donna Dunlop, Vicites. (1031)

3. Baker Victory, Post 898, Lackawanna, N.Y., won Jr. Girls Drill Teams (Rifle). Shown are Mrs. Harmon, Donna Laettner, Noreen Cronin, Vicites. (1022)

4. Chris Pankratz, Silhouettes, Post 721, Waukesha, Wis., accepts Jr. Color Guards trophy from Vicites. (1026)

5. High Drum Score trophy is given to Peter Russell, Imperials of Pembroke, Post 3403, S. Boston, Mass., by Vicites. (1036)

8. St. Paul Explorer Scouts, 4th Dist., Minn.	(75.95)	450	Detroit, Mich.	(83.55)	100
9. Colt .45, Post 9663, Dubuque, Iowa	(73.35)	400	3. Springfield Rifles, Post 1031, Springfield, Ohio	(82.95)	50
10. Stockton Commodores, Post 52, Stockton, Calif.	(70.75)	350	SENIOR LADIES COLOR GUARDS		
11. St. Francis Xavier, Post 9995, Summerville, Mass.	(67.75)	300	1. Illini Patri-ettes, Post 2048, Elmhurst, Ill.	(86.40)	\$ 75
12. Mariners, Post 3742, S. Milwaukee, Wis.	(64.65)	300	2. Auxiliary, Post 1585, Bellingham, Wash.	(76.05)	50
			JUNIOR COLOR GUARDS		
			1. Silhouettes, Post 721, Waukesha, Wis.	(89.25)	\$ 175
			2. Rosettes, Post 217, Minneapolis, Minn.	(89.15)	125
			3. Mariners Winter Color Guard, Post 3742, S. Milwaukee, Wis. (88.90)		75
			4. McClay Highlanders, Post 1296, Bloomington, Minn. and White Tornadoes, Post 6502, Bradley, Ill. (tie)	(88.75)	25
			LADIES DRILL TEAMS		
			1. Milwaukee Wis. County Council (94.70)	\$ 200	
			2. Auxiliary Post 1585, Bellingham, Wash.	(89.45)	150



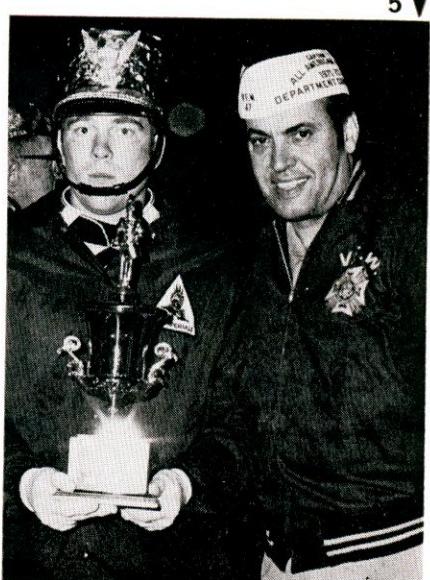
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3. St. Louis, Department of Missouri	(85.70)	100
GIRLS DRILL TEAMS—CLASS A		
1. Coronets, Post 981, Arlington Heights, Ill.	(94.70)	\$ 200
2. Northern Step, Post 2037, Green Bay, Wis.	(89.55)	150
3. Stepperettes, Post 9127, Des Moines, Iowa	(88.85)	100

GIRLS DRILL TEAMS—CLASS "B"

1. Buccaneers, Post 1230, Sheboygan, Wis.	(94.60)	\$ 125
2. Accents, Post 9156, Sheboygan, Wis.	(93.65)	75
3. Piasa Indians, Post 1308, Alton, Ill.	(92.20)	50
JUNIOR BOYS RIFLE DRILL TEAMS		
1. Golden Boots, Post 658, Macon, Ga.	(94.35)	\$ 175
2. Queens Honor Guard, Post 279, Long Beach, Calif.	(90.60)	125
3. Springfield Rifles, Post 1031, Springfield, Ohio	(88.10)	100

6. Girls Drill Teams (B) honors went to Buccaneers, Post 1230, Sheboygan, Wis. Shown are Mrs. Harmon, John Webb, Chris Abstetar, Vicki Mohar, Vicites. (1023)
 7. Troy Raines, Golden Boots, Post 658, Macon, Ga., receives Jr. Boys Rifle Drill Teams trophy from Vicites. (1021)
 8. Orville Munsterman, Highlanders, Post 2048, Elmhurst, Ill., receives Sr. Men's Color Guards trophy from Vicites. (1025)
 9. All-Girl Jr. Drum & Bugle Corps honors went to the Nee-Hi's, Post 3878, Rochelle, Ill. Shown are Mrs. Harmon, Mary Byers, Sue Hosette, Vicites. (1031)
 10. Coronets, Post 981, Arlington Heights, Ill., won Girls Drill Teams (A) competition. Shown are Mrs. Harmon, Jacki McCubbin, Lorrie Pedersen, Karen Stephens, Vicites. (1024)



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10

11. Rhoda Litteau, Illini Patri-ettes, Post 2048, Elmhurst, Ill., receives Sr. Ladies Color Guards trophy from Mrs. Harmon and Vicites. (1027)
 12. Billie Peters, Milwaukee (Wis.) County Council is presented the Sr. Ladies' Drill team trophy by Mrs. Harmon and Vicites.

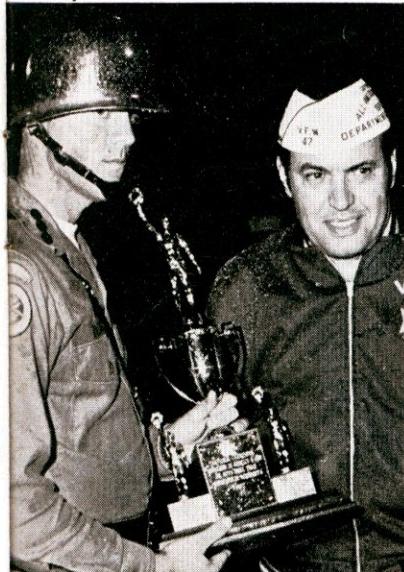
Vicites also presented the victors with a special plaque and citation honoring them for the many years they have won the competition. This year's contest marks the last time they will compete. It was the 25th consecutive year they had won the contest. (1029)



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12 ↓





ALL-AMERICAN DEPARTMENT CMDRS. 1st row (L-R): Clarence Brunner, Wis.; David E. Malone, W. Va.; Fidel Martinez, Jr., Calif.; Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites; Randall Aull, Ky.; Ralph F. Braun, Minn.; Thomas J. Lynch, N.J.; Leonard G. Wiggins. 2nd row: Stanley F. Kolniak, La.; Henry L. Black, Tenn.; John Babcock, Mass.; Ernest S. Hubbard, N.C.; Dominic J. Romano, Conn.; Arthur Taber, Ohio; John M. York, N.Y.; J. Robert Miller, Va.; James Harris, Ill.; Alan D. Arey, Vt.; Brookes Decker, Fla. 3rd row: Norman Robbins, Ind.; Mel Stanley, Texas; Claude McCarthy, Wash.; George C. Wiggins, Ariz.; J. Dan Truett, Jr., S. C.; Gerard T. Morin, Me.; Rudolph E. Shearer, Pa.; Robert A. Anderson, Alaska; H. D. Lindsay, Ark. (586)



ALL-AMERICAN DISTRICT CMDRS. 1st row (L-R): Karl Ford, 6, Ark.; Jack J. Woolworth, 2, Calif.; Charles J. Carter, 5, Conn.; Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites; James O. Scott, 16, Ill.; Mathias Hoff, 8, Ind.; Eugene Eddy, 5, La.; Robert E. Harr, 14, Md. 2nd row: Paul Martindale, 11, Ohio; Herb Unger, 6, N.J.; Richard Shaw, 6, N.H.; D. J. Hughes, 8, Mo.; Jerome Toenies, 6, Minn.; John E. Konicki, 12, Mich.; Clifford G. Olson, Jr., 1, Mass. 3rd row: Clarence Sydow, 7, Wis.; Raymond H. Honaker, 8, W. Va.; Marshall W. St. Clair, 4, Va.; Woodrow Willis, 20, Texas; W. Jack Holt, 1, Tenn.; Arnold C. Muir, 2, S. C.; Frank Cimino, 12, Pa.; A. L. McCurley, 8, Okla. (584)



ALL-AMERICAN POST CMDRS. 1st row (L-R): West Winn, 8024, Ark.; Francis P. Cameron, 6123, Conn.; Clifton G. Kimball, 1590, Fla.; Commander-in-Chief Vicites; Arnold Byrd, 1308, Ill.; James Bickel, 1114, Ind.; Robert Howell, 7253, Kans.; Martin V. Genovese, 6640. 2nd row: Robert Palmer, 1333, N.J.; Frank J. Gagnon, 1088, N.H.; Francis J. Sutton, 10047, Nev.; Robert W. Kulp, 1000, Mo.; John Quint, 425, Minn.; Edward Holdsworth, 6695, Mich.; Joseph R. Brugliera, 9862, Md.; Charles W. Moody, 6859, Me. 3rd row: Arthur H. Schultz, 305, Wis.; Clive K. Shaver, 1064, W. Va.; Landon W. Mann, 6975, Va.; Robert A. Larock, 793, Vt.; Jack Clark, 9171, Texas; Harold E. Starnes, 5266, Tenn.; Clarence C. Carsner, 1273, S. Dak.; Mesdeo Rubis, 191, Pa.; James G. Walsh, 495, Ohio; Raymundo Flores, 401, N.M. (585)

V.F.W. Achievers Honored



First Place Community Activities award (photo at left) was presented by Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites and National Auxiliary President Frances Harmon to Ezra Williams and Bessie Wolfe of Post 3382, Kingsport, Tenn. (573) Second place went to Post 2358, Roseville, Mich., represented by Stanley Wilczek and Helen Chegash. (574) Third place (photo at right) was awarded to Post 6800, Somerville, Mass., represented by John Flanagan, Jr. and Lillian Humphrey. (575)



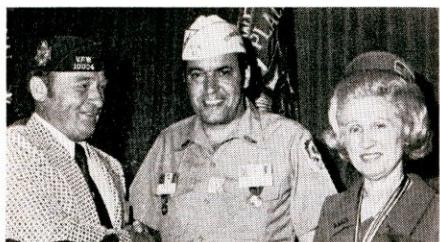
First place Youth Activities awards were presented by Commander-in-Chief Vicites to Warin Gross, Department of Washington (photo at left) (580); James LaHay, Dist. 7, Minnesota, (581); James Kurz, Post 1391, Racine, Wis. (582)

Chart V.F.W. Course

(Continued from page 21)



First place winners in Americanism received their awards from Commander-in-Chief Vicites. L-R: Calvin Dyke, Department of Ohio; Charles Cook, Department of Kansas. (572)



Commander-in-Chief Vicites and National Auxiliary President Frances Harmon presented first place award in Loyalty Day for Departments to Chester Minski, Conn.



First place in Loyalty Day for Districts was accepted by Robert Johnson, Dist. 4, Calif., from Vicites and Mrs. Harmon. (577)



Winning first for Posts in Loyalty Day was Post 1314, Hudson, N.Y. Earl Stock receives award from Vicites and Mrs. Harmon. (579)



First place for County Councils in Loyalty Day was presented William Happoldt, Allegheny (Pa.) County Council by Vicites and Mrs. Harmon. (578)

Carr was elected Commander-in-Chief to succeed Vicites and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Ray Soden moved into the post held by Carr, while Judge Advocate Gen. John J. Stang was chosen Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Quartermaster Gen. J. A. Cheatham was re-elected.

Other officers elected were John Dargin, Jr., Judge Advocate General; Dr. Joseph Lever, Surgeon General, and Fr. Lawrence Calkins, National Chaplain.

Reappointed Adjutant General of the V.F.W. was Julian Dickenson. Other national appointments were J. P. Cockrill, Chief of Staff, and Weldon Talley, Inspector General.

New members of the National Council of Administration were also installed. They were: James E. Peoples (2), Joseph Maiorano (4), David E. Malone (6), L. M. Van winkle (8), Oscar J. Authement (10), W. A. Gossard (12), Bernard F. Sullivan (14), Ernest J. Hayden (16), Robert E. Combs (D), Ralph F. Braun (E) and Clifford T. Teer (H).

Devoting a large portion of his speech to an attack on amnesty, Agnew took issue with arguments made in favor of it by McGovern who has cited examples of former Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Calvin Coolidge and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Agnew charged that none of these provided a general amnesty for draft dodgers and deserters, but in the case of Lincoln returned them to their outfits to serve out their time plus the period they were absent; Coolidge pardoned 100 who deserted after the World War I armistice to restore their civil rights and Roosevelt amnestied 1,500 who had already served their terms and enabled them to regain their citizenship (See page 16).

On the final day of the Convention Past Commander-in-Chief Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director of the V.F.W.'s Washington Office, was presented with the V.F.W. Distinguished Service Medal by Vicites. Earlier in the Convention identical awards were made to Past Commander-in-Chief

H. R. Rainwater and Quartermaster General Cheatham.

After his installation as Commander-in-Chief, Carr said the V.F.W. would oppose any settlement in Southeast Asia that did not provide for the release of American prisoners. (See page 22).

"I say to you now that until the last American is released from North Vietnam and Viet Cong prisons, we will never withdraw from our position," Carr said. "Nor will we sit idly by and assume that the POW issue will be satisfactorily resolved by the passage of time."

"The release of those men must be a condition precedent to any cessation of bombing of North Vietnam or the removal of the mines from the harbors which supply that aggressor power."

Carr said he had "misgivings" about the nuclear weapons limitations treaty with the Soviets "because of the long and consistent record of treaties broken by the Russians."

He voiced alarm over the reduction in American armed forces while Russia "continues to increase her military strength at home and among her satellites."

Opposition to amnesty for draft dodgers and military deserters will continue to be a key point in V.F.W. positions, he said.

Carr also urged establishment of a national cemetery in each state, support for police, continued war against drug abuse, increased youth programs, improvement in the VA hospital system and more jobs for veterans. ■

CONVENTION PICTURES CAN BE OBTAINED

Convention pictures (8 x 10) appearing in this can be obtained from Central Studios, 2314 Arctic Ave., Atlantic City, N.J. 08401 for \$3.25 each. Use code numbers after captions.

national headquarters veterans of foreign wars of the united states

General Orders No. 1

1972-73 Series

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers having been duly elected and installed by the 73rd National Convention will be accorded the recognition due them:

 - Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief:
Ray R. Soden, Post 2149, Bensenville, Illinois
 - Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief:
John J. Stang, Post 3147, LaCrosse, Kansas
 - Quartermaster General:
J. A. Cheatham, Post 869, Kansas City, Kansas
 - Judge Advocate General:
John F. Dargin, Jr., Post 1758, Dorchester, Massachusetts
 - Surgeon General:
Joseph E. Lever, M.D., Post 5646, Sandersville, Georgia
 - National Chaplain:
Rev. Lawrence Calkins, Post 3580, Blue Island, Illinois
 - National Council of Administration:
District No. 2 — James E. Peoples, Post 6800, Somerville, Massachusetts
 - District No. 4 — Joseph Maiorano, Post 174, Providence, Rhode Island
 - District No. 6 — David E. Malone, Post 6667, Ft. Ashby, West Virginia
 - District No. 8 — L. M. Van Winkle, Post 6827, St. Petersburg, Florida
 - District No. 10 — Oscar J. Authement, Post 8538, Larose, Louisiana
 - District No. 12 — W. A. "Bud" Gossard, Post 2755, Redfield, South Dakota
 - District No. 14 — Bernard F. Sullivan, Post 1448, Butte, Montana
 - District No. 16 — Ernest J. Hayden, Post 100, Cristobal, Canal Zone
 - District D — Robert E. Combs, Post 9550, Springfield, Ohio
 - District E — Ralph F. Braun, Post 2853, Sauk Centre, Minnesota
 - District H — Clifford T. Teer, Post 2148, Waco, Texas

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.
4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

 - Adjutant General:
Julian Dickenson, Post 1475, Amarillo, Texas
 - Chief of Staff:
J. P. Cockrill, Post 5225, West Memphis, Arkansas
 - Inspectors General:
Weldon Talley, Post 6640, Metairie, Louisiana
 - Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director, Washington Office:
Cooper T. Holt, Post 1289, Chattanooga, Tennessee
 - Assistant Adjutant General, Administrative, and Buddy Poppy Director:
Lowell J. Eastlund, Post 1782, White Bear Lake, Minnesota
 - Assistant Adjutant General, Programs:
Curtis M. Jewell, Post 1090, Warren, Ohio
 - Assistant Adjutant General, Legal:
Maurice H. Dwyer, Post 398, Kansas City, Missouri
 - Assistant Quartermaster General:
Herbert W. Irwin, Post 5789, Lee's Summit, Missouri
 - Director, Public Relations and Publications, and Publisher, V.F.W. Magazine:
John L. Smith, Post 1391, Racine, Wisconsin
 - National Service Officer and Director, National Veterans Service:
Norman D. Jones, Post 1650, Topeka, Kansas
 - Director, National Legislative Service:
Francis W. Stover, Post 9274, Falls Church, Virginia
 - Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs:
Frank Phelps Jones, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia
 - National Historian:
Elmer L. Jenkins, Post 1650, Topeka, Kansas
 - Director, Americanism and Environmental:
Raymond B. Edwards, Post 8220, Belton, Missouri
 - Director, Community Activities:
H. R. Anderson, Post 846, Overland Park, Kansas
 - Director, Membership:
Robert A. Lowe, Post 610, Sidney, Nebraska
 - Director, National Extension Service:
E. H. Meeks, Post 2012, Abilene, Texas

- Director, Safety:
Charles D. Bishop, Post 9762, Kansas City, Missouri
- Director, Voice of Democracy and Youth Activities:
Edward L. Burnham, Post 1724, Willimantic, Connecticut
- National Convention Director:
Arthur J. Vater, Post 3254, Buffalo, New York
- Director, Purchasing and Life Membership:
George K. Bradford, Post 1829, Kansas City, Missouri
- Director, Emblem and Supply Department:
James L. Maloney, Post 869, Kansas City, Kansas
- Director, General Services:
William E. Rafiner, Post 4242, Raytown, Missouri
- Director, Insurance Programs:
Wayne Rom, Post 6852, Des Moines, Iowa
- Director, V.F.W. Properties — Kansas City
Roy Shedd, Post 846, Overland Park, Kansas
- Director, V.F.W. Properties — Washington, D.C.
Wade H. Holland, Post 3147, LaCrosse, Kansas
- National Sergeant-at-Arms:
Leopolt R. Malyszko, Post 1046, Brockton, Massachusetts
- National Americanism Committee:
Chairman: Clyde H. Prouty, Post 791, Yankton, South Dakota
- Vice Chairmen: Reed Kline, Post 1797, Creston, Iowa
- J. Robert Miller, Post 2524, Culpeper, Virginia
- William J. Reese, Sr., Post 2656, Baltimore, Maryland
- Walter W. Thompson, Post 5059, Turlock, California
- National Band and Drum Corps Committee:
Chairman: Anton J. Schlechta, Post 6827, St. Petersburg, Florida
- National Buddy Poppy Committee:
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- J. Mallory Loos, Post 16, Rochester, New York
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- James H. McClenahan, Post 2859, Wood River, Illinois
- Joseph L. Vicites, Post 47, Uniontown, Pennsylvania
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- Vice Chairmen: Pasquale D. Frisella, Post 916, Wakefield, Rhode Island
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- Juston M. Morrow, Post 5072, Rotan, Texas
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- Thomas J. Poole, Post 1975, Auburn, New York
- Elwood B. Rickards, Post 7234, Ocean View, Delaware
- Jack Tate, Jr., Post 8977, Danville, Virginia
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- James H. Willis, Post 534, Joplin, Missouri
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- Charles C. Ralls, Post 2995, Bellevue, Washington
- Richard L. Roudebush, Post 6246, Noblesville, Indiana
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- Vice Chairmen: J. W. "Bill" Cole, Post 2012, Abilene, Texas
- Howard M. Decker, Post 10047, North Las Vegas, Nevada
- James Harris, Post 7190, Murphysboro, Illinois
- William P. Rizzuto, Post 594, Norwich, Connecticut
5. THROUGH CHANNELS. Post Commanders, County Council Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to FEDERAL LEGISLATION OR TO THE POLICY OR PROCEDURE OF THE U. S. VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, to their respective Department Headquarters for endorsement and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies.
6. Invitations to National Officers must be forwarded through channels to the Adjutant General with approval of the Department Commander. This applies to all National Officers, and unless the above is complied with, invitations will not be given consideration.

7. DEPARTMENT RESERVE. Attention is called to Section 517, Manual of Procedure that requires Department Quartermasters maintain a dues reserve fund to which shall be credited not less than fifty percent (50%) of all current year's (1973) dues that he received prior to July 1, 1973. No Department Quartermaster shall disburse nor shall an obligation be incurred against this fund until after July 1, 1973, at which time all moneys to the credit of the fund shall be transferred to the Department general fund for expenditure in accordance with the Department budget.
8. POST RESERVE. Attention is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, which mandates Post Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund to which shall be credited not less than one half of the Post's part of the current year's (1973) dues paid by each member prior to July 1, 1973, except dues remitted by the Post. No Post Quartermaster shall disburse, nor shall an obligation be incurred against this fund until after July 1, 1973, at which time it shall be transferred to the Post general fund and be available for expenditure.
9. Attention of Commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Constitution and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in a sum at least equal to the amount of negotiable funds for which he may be accountable.
10. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit, through their Post Commander, a Trustee Report of Audit (Form P-113) quarterly to the Department Quartermaster for referral to National Headquarters. Such report is due at the close of September.
11. Posts that have failed to submit a Report of Election form, listing officers 1972-73, should immediately forward such report to Department and National Headquarters for matter of record so that mailings can be made to the proper officers of each Post.
12. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement that you file a copy of Internal Revenue Form 990 on or before November 15, 1972, for the period of June 1, 1971 through May 31, 1972. Form 990 may be secured from your local Post Office or branch offices of Internal Revenue Service.
13. All National Aides-de-Camp, Congressional Medal of Honor Class, who held appointment prior to August 25, 1972, will be reappointed promptly upon notification by Department Quartermasters that such aides are members in good standing.
14. All members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor are eligible to appointment as Aides-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief, Congressional Medal of Honor Class. Post Commanders will report such members to their Department Commanders for recommendation and referral to the Commander-in-Chief.
15. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day, October 23, 1972. (See Section 223, Manual of Procedure).
16. Announcement is made of the National Council of Administration meeting to be held in Kansas City, Missouri, October 9, 1972.
17. Announcement is made of the Conference of Department Adjutants and Quartermasters, which will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, October 16-17, 1972.
18. Announcement is made of the consolidation of Admiral Benson Post No. 2818, Litchfield, Minnesota, and Cokato Post No. 8744, Cokato, Minnesota; the consolidated Post to be known as Admiral Benson Post No. 2818, Litchfield, Minnesota.
19. Announcement is made of the consolidation of Millam Magnuson Post No. 182, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and St. Anthony Post No. 8721, St. Anthony, Minnesota; the consolidated Post to be known as Millam Magnuson-St. Anthony Post No. 182, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
20. Announcement is made of the consolidation of Mid City Post No. 6842, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Parkway Memorial Post No. 7650, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the consolidated Post to be known as Parkway-Mid City Memorial Post No. 7650, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
21. Announcement is made of the change of location of the following Posts in accordance with Section 206 of the National By-Laws:
- Jay County Post No. 2840 from Portland, Indiana to Salamonie, Indiana.
 - York Drexler Post No. 5532 from Columbiana, Ohio to Washingtonville, Ohio.
 - Burbach-Kulbacki-Woolcott Post No. 5167 from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to West Allis, Wisconsin.
22. So much of Paragraph 11, General Orders No. 10, 1971-72 Series, as announced the loca-

tion of Post No. 8978 as Holopaw, Florida, should read as follows:

Post No. 8978, Holopaw, Florida

23. Announcement is hereby made of the authorization of charters for the following Posts:
- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Post No. 3133 | Lake Charles, Louisiana |
| No. 3725 | North Cape May, New Jersey |
| No. 3885 | Pirmasens, Germany |
| No. 4060 | Union, Oregon |
| No. 4956 | Crocker, Missouri |
| No. 5110 | Rhein Main Air Base, Germany |
| No. 5168 | Forsyth, Missouri |
| No. 5327 | Wentzville, Missouri |
| No. 6403 | Bannister, Michigan |
| No. 7108 | Helotes, Texas |
| No. 7514 | Ozark, Arkansas |
| No. 7520 | McCrory, Arkansas |
| No. 8245 | Waldrum, Arkansas |
| No. 8521 | Jonesboro, Missouri |
| No. 8725 | Augusta, Arkansas |
| No. 8771 | Sudbury, Massachusetts |
| No. 8895 | Rothschild, Wisconsin |
| No. 9064 | Elsberry, Missouri |
| No. 10275 | Pattaya, Thailand |
| No. 10276 | Honolulu, Hawaii |
| No. 10281 | Radcliff, Kentucky |
| No. 10282 | Bagdad, Arizona |
| No. 10283 | Danville, Kentucky |

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Julian Dickenson
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BY COMMAND OF:
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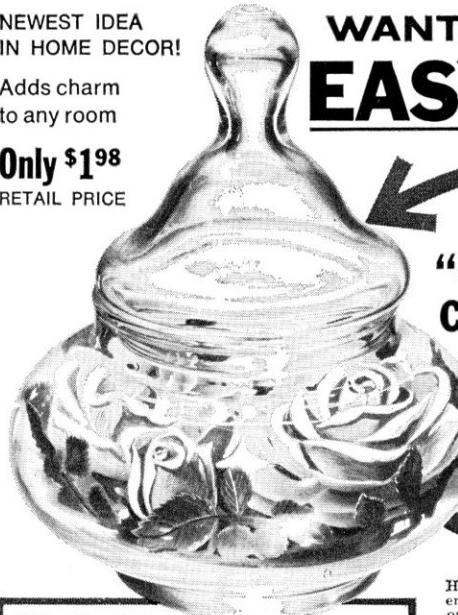
In the September article on the Air Force's 25th Anniversary it was stated, "Tokyo was bombed on April 18, 1942, by 16 B-52s from the *USS Hornet*." Three will get you five the planes were B-25s.—*George A. Dyer, 1408 W. Main St., Jefferson City, Mo. 65101.*

(Editors Note: As countless readers have pointed out, the planes were B-25s. An inadvertant typographical transposition of numbers caused the incorrect identification.

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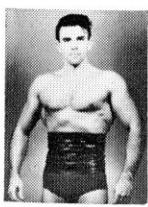
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AIR FORCE

360th Sq., 8th AF—For claim, must contact Ben Spender, Gordon Doughty, others.—Joe D. Petrie, 5845 Monument Dr., Grants Pass, Ore. 97526.

Samson AFB N. Y., Food Svc. Sq. (1953-55)—Like to contact John Carney.—Paul F. Hoyt, 207 N. Poage St., Pattonsburg, Mo. 64670.

ARMY

1/61 HHC, 1st Inf., 5th Div.—For claim, must contact members.—Gerald Smith, 907 Elizabeth St., Midland, Mich. 48640.

2/320 Arty., Btry. C., 101 Abn. Div. (Vietnam, Sept., 1968)—Like to contact Capt. J. D. Anderson, others.—Bob Benton, 716-2nd NE, Pipestone, Minn. 56164.

6th Armd. Cav. Reg. (Germany, 1949-54)—Like to contact friends.—Earl Todd, 3133 Keswick Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21211.

8th Cav., 1st Bn., Hq. Co.—For claim, must contact S/Sgt. Dentro, Capt. Garcia, Lt. Col. Robert Kane.—M. J. O'Donnell, 321 E. Circle Dr., Russellville, Ark. 72801.

18th Reg., 1st Army (Nov., 1944)—Must contact members.—Mrs. Trevor Kimble, Sr., Box 324, Morning Sun, Iowa 52640.

20th FA, Btry. A, 4th Inf. Div. (1944)—For claim, must contact Capt. William H. McGhee, Lt. Pat Mullendore, Col. Fred W. Ulrich, Col. Agustus T. Terry, Jr., S/Sgt. Bruce E. Hodges, Cpl. Charles C. Phipps, Cpl. James M. Tynes, Pfc. McCarthur, Pfc. William A. Martin, S/Sgt. Del R. Storey, S/Sgt. Edward R. Robinson, Pfc. Harold O. Hunt, Capt. Butterfield, Capt. Ray K. Renfro, Capt. Henry Borger, Lt. Orville Peterson, Pfc. Jones, Pfc. Case, Pfc. Metcalfe, 1st Sgt. Jessie W. Cox.—Henry E. Thomas, 3907 Floral Dr., No. Highlands, Ga. 39560.

30th Inf. Div.—Seek history by Robert L. Hewitt.—Tony Zuelta, 860 E. 73rd St., Cleveland, Ohio 44103.

35th Div. (WWII)—Seek history.—Floyd Menelao, 719 Pine St., Franklin Sq., L. I., New York, 11010.

59th CAC, Btry. E (Ft. Drum, P. I. 1939-41)—Like to contact friends.—William R. Stahl, 1517 Sherman St., "C", Alameda, Calif. 94501.

102nd Inf. Div.—Seek history.—Robert Dallas, RD 2, Rt. 82, Hudson, N. Y. 12534.

102nd Sig. Co., 102nd Inf. Div.—Need to contact Joseph A. Borsky.—Herman V. Davis, Jr., 5013 Delashmitt Rd., Hixson, Tenn. 37343.

115th Bn., Co. D, 78th Reg., Camp Robison, Ark., and 1st Inf. Div. Band.—Must contact George Clyde Welsky.—Mrs. Earl Welsky, 728 W. 33rd St., Ashtabula, Ohio 44004.

134th AAA, Btry. D (1944-46)—Like to contact friends.—David H. R. Shaw, 1139 Pershing Ave., Hubbard, Ohio 44425.

135th Reg., 2nd Bn., Co. G, 47th Inf. Div. (1951-52) and 19th Inf. Reg., Co. E, 24th Inf. Div. (Aug. 1952-Feb. 1953, Camp Hougen, Japan)—Like to contact friends, especially Sgts. Roy Fuller and Howard L. Juveland of 135th.—Milton Turbeville, 5135 Nantucket, Jackson, Miss. 39209.

250th Eng., Co. C (1943)—For claim, must contact members.—Joseph McDonald, 209 Constitution Ave., Revere, Mass. 02151.

275th Eng., Co. C, 1st Plt., 2nd Sq., 75th Inf. Div.—For claim, must contact members.—W. C. Kinzbach, 400 E. Neal St., Carthage, Texas 75633.

295th JASCO (WWII)—Reunion?—H. B. McDougal, 400 Zenobia St., Denver, Colo. 80204.

306th Med. Co., Co. A, 306th Inf., 77th Inf. Div. (WWII)—Like to contact members.—Gene Lohmeyer, PO Box 9, Lamar, Mo. 64759.

317th Inf., Co. A, KAL, 80th Div. (1943-44)—Like to contact members. Roster.—Harold L. Render, 211 E. Arcadia Ave., Peoria, Ill. 61603.

338th Bn., Co. H, 85th Inf. Div. (WWII)—Like to contact Lamar Warrfles.—John E. Richardson, 1151 Marble St., Jackson, Miss. 39212.

370th Mtr. Veh. Asmby. Co. (Atlanta Ord. Dpt., New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon, WWII)—Reunion?—David Yeglin, O'Hare AFB, Box 9033, Chicago, Ill. 60666.

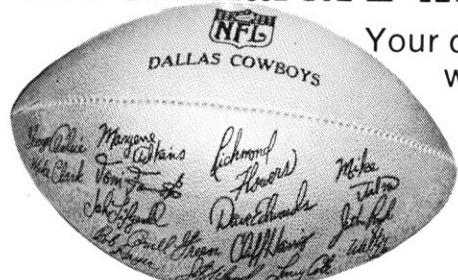
447th Bmb. Gp. (H), 8th AAF (Rattlesden, Suffolk, England, WWII)—Seek material for book.—Francis X. Schuster, 1610 Erskine St., Adelphi, Md. 20783.

770th FA, Svc. Btry. (Camp Hood, Texas & Europe, 1943-45)—Like to contact members.—Reuben G. Robinson, 570 Plaza Dr., Smyrna, Ga. 30080.

843rd Eng. Avn. Bn., Co. C—Like to contact Robert L. Ward. Reunion.—Verlin Weaver, 314 Breckman St., Walbridge, Ohio 43465.

955th FA, Btry. B (Korea)—Like to contact members. Roster.—Bob Wheeler, 1952 E. 37th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11234.

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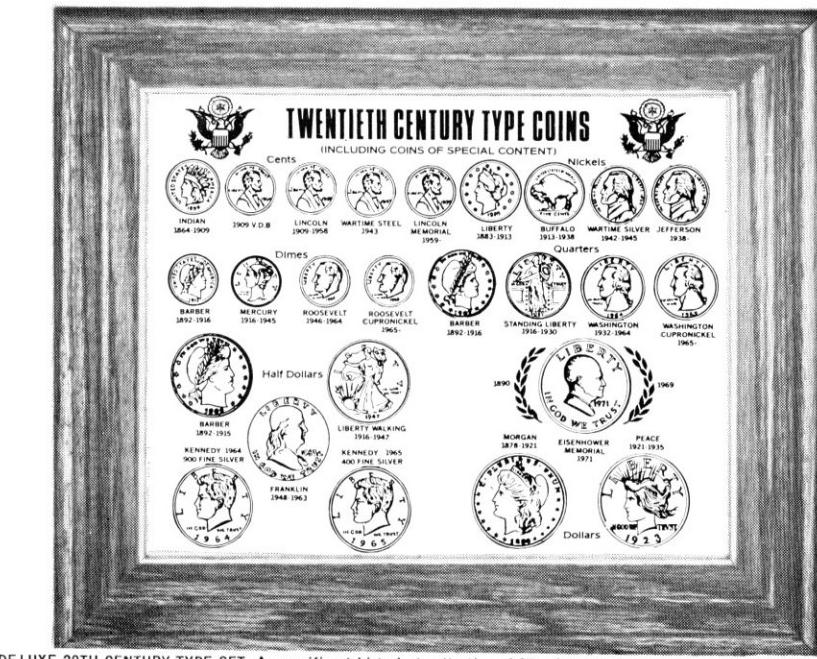
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1395th Eng. (WWII)—Like to contact Robert M. Hague, Robert L. Brown, Reunion, Aug. 3-5, 1973, Las Vegas.—Virgil H. Marsteller, RR 4, Abilene, Kans. 67410.

North Africa—Like to contact crews who airlifted supplies from Tunisia to Erivan in WWII. Seek info about Ark on Mt. Ararat.—Mrs. Albert Watson, 621 Liparita Ave., Angwin, Calif. 94508.

Manila, Co. F., U. S. Sig. Corps (1910)—Like to contact Sgt. Rand, Otto Kuhn.—George F. Cooke, 5947 N. Owasso, Tulsa, Okla. 74126.

OCS Det., Waco (Brisbane & Ipswich, Australia, 1943-45)—Bruce Anderson, 303-10th St., Glen Dale, W. Va. 26038.

Southern France (Aug. 15, 1944)—Like to contact members of this campaign. Also those of 517th Pcht. Inf. Reg., Co. A, esp. Art Clapper, Col. Graves.—Bill Nickerson, PO Box 15, Osbornville, N. Y. 08723.

Vietnam—Like to contact Sp4 Arthur Roy Hyatt, V.F.W. member in R. I.—William E. Glazener, 12 Broughton Dr., Greenville, S. C. 29609.

MARINE CORPS

7th Marines, 1st Bn., 1st Marine Div. (North China, 1945-46)—Like to contact Joseph Meeks.—Harry Simes, PO Box 243, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406.

26th Marines, 1st Bn., Co. A, 3rd Marine Div. (Feb. 20, 1968)—Like to contact friends.—Gary D. Neptune, 360 S. Brunswick St., Old Town, Me. 04468.

Second Nicaraguan Campaign—Like to contact Marine veterans. Reunion?—Joe E. Morris, 832 NE 23rd Ave., Portland, Ore. 97232.

NAVY

AIRDEVRON SIX (VX-6), Deep Freeze, Antarctica—Like to contact members. Reunion?—Alfred J. Santino, 76 Potomac St., West Roxbury, Mass. 02132.

USS Carmick (1950-51)—Like to contact Schulz, Anderson, Sanders, Moore, others.—Paul L. Gunter, PO Box 3464, Oxford, Ala. 36201.

USS Chickasaw—Like to contact crew.—Robert W. Hartley, 401 N. Blaine, Wellington, Kans. 67152.

Espirito, Santo, Melbourne, Fla.—Like to contact P. P. Wheeland.—Al Schneider, 7215 Dover Ln., Fort Worth, Texas. 76118.

USS Kershaw (1945)—For claim, must contact Finis Coulis, Vernon Markovitz, Kenneth Watters, Charles Noll, Lawrence Pfleger, others.—Claude Pelzer, 2650 N. Pascal Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55113.

reunions

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ALL SERVICES

Pearl Harbor survivors—Dec. 4-8, New Orleans, La.—James E. Tracy, PO Box 9212, Long Beach, Calif. 90810.

ARMY

1st Army, Army Art. Pk. (1917-18)—Nov. 11, San Francisco.—Arthur J. Cleu, PO Box 7098, Oakland, Calif. 94601.

4th Inf., Co. M (Alaska, WWII)—Nov.—Wesley A. Jamieson, 327-20th Ave. No., East Grand Forks, Minn. 56721.

11th Bmb. Gp. (H)—July 26-29, 1973, Milwaukee.—Robert E. May, PO Box 11, Perrysburg, Ohio 43551.

25th Inf. Div.—July 26-29, 1973, Richmond.—DeWitt Oakes, Jefferson Hotel, Main at Jefferson, Richmond, Va. 23220.

113th Inf., Co. I, 44th Div. (1940-43)—Oct., Toms River, N. J.—Rosario Calamusa, 112 Oak St., Newark, N. J. 07106.

164th Inf., Co. G—July 27-29, 1973—Milton W. Kane, PO Box 872, Valley City, N. Dak. 58072.

202nd AAA (AW) (WWII)—May 26-28, 1973, Louisville.—W. S. Roser, 2507 Kings Hwy., Louisville, Ky. 40205.

307th Inf. (WWI & WWII)—Nov. 11, New York City.—Henry Lopez, PO Box 2131, Grand Central Station, New York 10017.

388th Bmb. Gp. (H)—1973, New Orleans.—Edward J. Huntzinger, 863 Maple St., Perrysburg, Ohio 43551.

711th Tk. Bn., Co. B (WWII)—Reunion?—Michael S. Vecchitto, 25 Howard Ave., Middletown, Conn. 06457.

955th FA, Btry. B. (Korea)—June 1-3, 1973, East Durham, N. Y.—Bob Wheeler, 1952 E. 37th, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11234.

1255th Cbt. Eng., Co. C (WWII)—Reunion?—Marion D. Colvin, 9203 Tavistock Dr., Plymouth, Mich. 48170.

3483rd Ord. MAM Co. (WWII)—Sept. 1-3, 1973.—Charles E. Pommitz, 12337 Camden Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48213.

Interpron One—Reunion, 1973?—Albert H. Honig, 8938 N. Nashville, Morton Grove, Ill. 60053.

MARINE CORPS

4th Marine Div.—1973, Washington, D.C.—Charles Newman, 1010 Lockwood Dr., Houston, Texas 77020.

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USS California—July 31-Aug. 3, 1973, Seattle.—Harold Bean, 220 E. Pearl, Staunton, Ill. 62088.

USS Chicago (WWII)—April 7, 1973, Philadelphia.—William J. Underwood, 1105 Stokes Ave., Collingswood, N. J. 08108.



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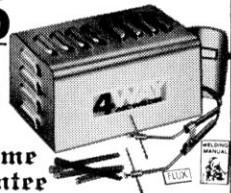
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charged with crime. Evidence is routinely disregarded and guilt or innocence is being resolved through sociological whim. And all the while our state and national crime rate continues to rise.

One thing that we of the V.F.W. should do is extend our activity to the drug problem by setting up special meetings on the Post level with invitations to all. Qualified police experts on narcotics and dangerous drugs can be obtained to lecture on every phase of this complex and dangerous problem—free of charge. Narcotics and dangerous drugs can best be controlled through authentic education before the young get started on their use. After all, the national drug problem is not limited to our service men. It is estimated that 40% of those detected as users in the service have a pre-service record of illicit use.

We shall place renewed emphasis on all of our youth programs, our community service programs and our Americanism programs during the coming year. Our Voice of Democracy program alone provides a most effective vehicle for stimulating patriotism among the teenagers.

We shall pursue with unabated vigor our continuing campaign to maintain and improve the VA hospital system and to see that beds are available to every veteran who needs them. Veterans hospitals and veterans health and medical programs must be kept under the jurisdiction of the Veterans Administration regardless of any national health program which may be adopted or proposed. We must be on constant guard against any threat by any agency to take over any VA responsibility. If there were no American veterans there would be no America as we know it today.

Employment for all veterans of the Vietnam War shall remain one of our most urgent goals. I propose that each Post establish the position of Post Employment Officer with an active Employment Committee. Every available source of employment should be regularly contacted, explored, listed, kept current and the listings regularly publicized. Veterans should be sought to match the jobs. Beyond that, we must throw our entire weight behind the enforcement of veterans preference laws.

Particularly alarming are the administrative orders directing the employment of applicants from other groups in public jobs. These

totally disregard the rights of veterans. The constitutionality of state veterans preference is being challenged. If veterans lose this test case, a whole series of successful court tests of federal, state and local veterans preference laws no doubt would follow. We must not permit this to happen.

Veterans should have first crack at available jobs through the public employment service, but many of these seriously understaffed offices have been burdened by orders to give special attention to other groups. The V.F.W. will continue to insist that public employment service personnel comply with the law favoring veterans in all job referrals. We shall watch closely the hiring policies of all federal agencies to be sure the federal government hires its share of veterans.

The V.F.W. will not forget the increasing needs of the World War II veterans. Many of them are being forced to find new work because of disabilities or industrial displacement. The Vietnam veterans need more money to continue their interrupted education or training. The V.F.W. will continue to lead the fight on their behalf.

Of utmost concern to the World War I veterans are pensions. A primary V.F.W. goal is liberalized pensions for these World War I comrades and other older veterans.

In conclusion, let me remind you that we have just completed another great year in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "GI Joe" Vicites was a great Commander-in-Chief. I personally enjoyed every minute of my service under his command. I know that Ray Soden feels the same way—as do all of you.

But I know too that Joe would be the first to wish for us a bigger and better year. For 20 years this has been the attitude of every man who has led this great organization. That plus the outstanding staff in Kansas City and Washington. Together with all of our comrades and leaders through the 53 Departments is the reason for our continued success.

Therefore, I challenge you to join with me in making this an even greater year—in membership, in community service, in youth activities, in legislation, in veterans benefits and service—in the vital service of this nation we all love. And I promise you, my comrades, that no matter how hard you work, I as your Commander-in-Chief, will be somewhere out in front. ■



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POWs—

(Continued from page 35)

"But there was no pattern of cruelty—nothing like what seems to be occurring in North Vietnam."

In early 1945, Carr left the compound for the first time since he had been thrust into it. Russian forces were moving westward and Stalag Luft IV was in their path.

"We were told we'd be on the road five or six days. But we were out for 79 days. We traveled 800 miles and we walked all but about 100 miles of it," Carr related.

For the most part the prisoners slept in barns and foraged for food.

"Most barns had a pile of little potatoes to feed the pigs. We helped ourselves. Sometimes there was a cow. I was a farm boy and I milked it. Once in a while a farmer—or more often a slave laborer—would give us something to eat," the V.F.W. leader said.

At one point, the prisoners were kept in a barbed wire enclosure for 11 days. They were given only three cups of soup during the entire period.

"I became so weak I couldn't run. I could walk but I was becoming weaker. I began to think that I might cash in."

Even on the march, the prisoners received news.

"When we learned that the Remagen bridge had been captured by our people our spirits really soared," Carr said.

He and his fellow prisoners on the long march were liberated April 26, 1945.

Fully expecting to be shipped later to the Far East, where the war against Japan was still underway, Carr returned to his family's farm at the edge of Paulding, Miss., for a long furlough. But the war ended and T/Sgt. Carr was discharged.

He had grown up on that 120-acre hill farm and he doesn't hide the fact that he hated it then. His

world was an expanse of red clay hills extending from Meridian to Laurel. The farm was about half-way between. Today he owns that farm and returns to it often.

Carr's ancestors had settled that country after emigrating from Ireland. Those on his father's side began arriving in the late 1700s. His mother's forebears reached Mississippi in the 1840s.

Pat was born Oct. 22, 1922. There was an older sister who died when he was three. He has a half-sister, Sister Mary Noel, a teacher and nurse who has pioneered a program to improve conditions for culturally deprived children in West Point, Miss.

Life was difficult on the little farm. "We raised just about everything we needed for the table except sugar, salt and flour," Carr said. "But we seldom had any money. I wore overalls and I went barefoot except in the coldest weather. I worked hard."

Pat attended the little grade school at Paulding and went for three years to a consolidated high school.

His senior year he transferred to St. Bernard's High School at Cullman, Ala. Then, after considering and eventually rejecting the idea of training for the priesthood, Pat entered St. Bernard's Junior College at Cullman. He was in his second year when World War II broke out.

"I went home for Christmas never expecting to return. I was determined to enter the armed services. But my Dad and Mother were rather offended. They had skimped and worked very hard to send me to college. I realized that it wouldn't be very fair to them if I didn't continue for two more weeks until the end of the semester. Then I decided to finish the school year out."

But two days after he returned home at the end of school Pat volunteered for the Army Air Corps. And shortly after he was discharged he became a pre-law student at Loyola University of the South in New Orleans.

"It was the G. I. Bill all the way. Without it, there would have been no chance for me to go back to college," Carr said. He also managed the Student Center and worked in the campus cafeteria.

In the summer of 1946, Pat took a vacation job as a hotel desk clerk at Mammoth Cave, Ky. There he met Jean Massey, who worked in the accounting department. They



were married the following December.

Pat Carr is a successful attorney in the New Orleans suburb of Metairie which, with more than 150,000, is one of the largest unincorporated communities in the United States.

He and Jean and their seven children live in an unpretentious four-bedroom home in a middle class neighborhood. There are two college students in the family, Karen, a sophomore at Loyola, and Stanley, a junior at Louisiana State. Judy and Janice attend Dominican High in New Orleans and Pat Jr., Mary and Brian are pupils at St. Catherine's School.

Pat used to fly his own airplane. He gave up cross-country flying after "I felt that we nearly got killed when we ran into bad weather while we were returning from the V.F.W. convention in Chicago in 1965." He sold his plane several years later.

His hobbies are hunting and fishing and his avocation is the V.F.W.

"I joined in 1953 because Joe Chase, a neighbor, asked me to. There hadn't been a Post in my area before then. I was an attorney and they pushed me into activity very early. They elected me Judge Advocate of my Post and the District. But I really never knew what the organization really meant to the veteran and this country until I was elected Department Junior Vice Commander and I attended the Mid-Winter Conference in 1958. It was then that I discovered what this organization really means.

"I've been asked why I am so involved with the V.F.W. The answer is that just about everybody who passes through this world would like to think that he's made some contribution to his fellow man. I feel that, if I were capable of making some contribution, I could better make it through this organization."

And this is what Commander-in-Chief Pat Carr tells Vietnam veterans who ask why they should join the V.F.W.:

"If you want to do what is in your own best interest as well as that of your community, your state and your country, you should become a member of the V.F.W. It is made up of solid citizens with the same desires. With them and through them you can contribute much more than if you stand alone."

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Elected to lead the V.F.W. during 1972-73 were Commander-in-Chief Patrick E. Carr (C), Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Ray R. Soden (L) and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief John J. Stang.

Biographies of New Senior, Junior Commanders-in-Chief

The V.F.W.'s new Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Ray R. Soden, is a veteran of WWII naval combat in the Pacific and European theaters and at one time served on a destroyer, the *USS Claxton*, that was part of Adm. Arleigh A. Burke's Little Beaver Squadron.

Soden, of Bensenville, Ill., was elected to his new office at the 73rd National Convention in Minneapolis after being chosen Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 72nd in Dallas.

His two WWII theater ribbons denoting service in the Pacific and Europe bear seven battle stars.

Soden was appointed chairman of the Illinois Veterans' Commission by Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie.

He has served as Commander of Post 2149, his Bensenville home Post, Commander of Illinois' Fifth District and in 1964-65 he was Illinois Department Commander. Prior to that he was Junior Vice Commander in 1962 and Senior Vice Commander in 1963 of the Department. He has been Chairman

of the National Voice of Democracy Committee for three years and one as Vice Chairman. In 1965 he was President of the 66th National Convention Corporation for the 66th National Convention in Chicago.

A public relations representative of the Illinois Bell Telephone Co., Soden is second vice president of the Oak Park Lions Club and the Telephone Pioneers of America in Illinois, a past member of the DuPage County Boy Scouts Council, past president of the Bensenville Community Chest and a member of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Committee for Higher Education, Franklin Park Chamber of Commerce, Illinois State Press Association and the Military Order of the Cootie. His awards include the Freedoms Foundation Americanism Medal and the DeMolay Citizens' Award for youth activities.

A veteran of the Korean War, John J. Stang, of LaCrosse, Kan., was elected V.F.W. Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the

73rd National Convention in Minneapolis.

At the 72nd National Convention in Dallas, Stang, an attorney, was elected Judge Advocate General of the V.F.W. for 1971-72.

Although Stang first enlisted in the Army in 1946, his major service took place during the Korean War when he served as the executive officer of an artillery battery.

His rank at the conclusion of his active duty in 1952 was first lieutenant.

Discharged from the Army as a staff sergeant after his first enlistment, he enrolled in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of Kansas and was commissioned before being called to active duty for Korean service.

Stang was called to active duty again during the Berlin Crisis of 1961—when he was Junior Vice Commander of the Department of Kansas.

Recently he was graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and is a lieutenant-colonel in the Army Reserves.

Stang, a graduate of the University of Kansas Business School, received his law degree from the university's law school in 1957. Since then he has been in private practice in his hometown.

He has held almost all the Post and District offices and was elected Kansas Department Commander in 1963.

He has served on the National Council of Administration, as vice chairman of the National Security Committee and chairman of the National Legislative Committee. He was chairman of the Legislative committee in 1970-71 when V.F.W. officials met for the first time with the newly created Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C. during the Washington Conference.

He is a member of the LaCrosse Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, American Legion, the state and national Bar Associations and a legal fraternity.

He and his wife, Mary Lou, live at 319 Fairway Drive, LaCrosse, with their three daughters, Karen, Sharon and Debra.

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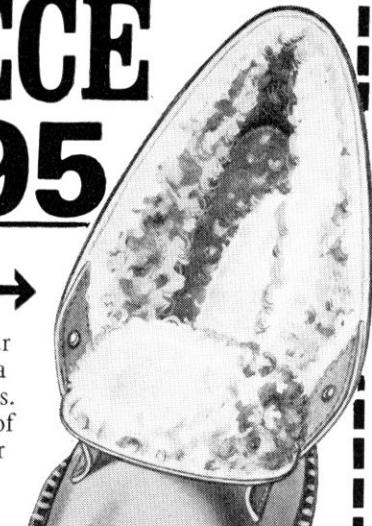
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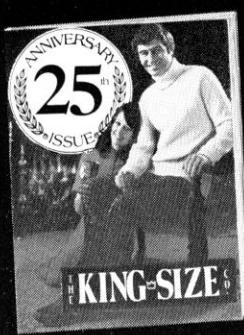
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Job Outlook Improving

A "dramatic turnaround" in the veterans employment picture has occurred during the past year. V.F.W. Service Officers were told at a two-conference, Aug. 18-19, which preceded the 73rd annual National V.F.W. Convention in Minneapolis, Minn.

H. R. Rainwater, director of the Veterans Employment Service (VES) of the Department of Labor and a Past V.F.W. Commander-in-Chief, presented a bright job outlook for returning veterans to the Service Officers.

Citing figures from fiscal 1972, which ended June 30, Rainwater pointed out that the unemployment figures for veterans, ages 20-29, had dropped from 8.9% to 7.2% compared to a drop for non-veterans of the same age group of 6.9% to 6.6%.

Rainwater pointed out that in addition to this reduction 900,000 servicemen were discharged during the fiscal year and were integrated into the national work force. He also reported that the VES saw a 16% rise in placements during the past 12 months.

One of the reasons cited for this improvement in the job picture was the President's Executive Order requiring all firms with federal contracts of \$10,000 or more to list job openings with VES.

Rainwater reported that in the five years prior to the order, VES was losing job placement orders at the rate of 165,000 annually. Now, they expect a 700,000 jump in listings.

One of the difficulties VES is still faced with is finding jobs for those 20-24 years old since most lack adequate training, he said. Programs in upgrading their skills have been started to help alleviate this problem.

The job picture for veterans was also touched upon during the National Convention sessions. L. J. Andolsek, U.S. Civil Service Commissioner, told delegates Wednesday, Aug. 23, that "no one is going to take away veterans preference." He addressed the Convention after being presented with the V.F.W. Gold Medal of Merit and Citation.



Among those honored at the 73rd National Convention of the V.F.W. was Ludwig L. Andolsek, U.S. Civil Service Commissioner. He was presented the V.F.W. Gold Medal of Merit and Citation.

"There is just no way in the world we can repay the veterans for the time they took out of their lives to serve their country," he said. "In this world of easy jobs and soft money, the veteran has learned self-discipline, gained maturity and technical skills through years of training."

The V.F.W. Convention Committee studying Veterans Service resolutions was addressed Sunday, Aug. 20 by Malcolm R. Lovell, Jr., assistant secretary of labor for manpower.

He said the federal government's objective is to reduce the veterans unemployment rate to "at least" the level of the non-veteran.

"In the Department of Labor we have been told by President Nixon that the most important priority is meeting the needs of thousands of veterans and we want to know if any of them are getting the runaround or not being accepted into unions if they have already had training," he said.

V.F.W. Service Officers at their two-day conference also heard a review of veterans legislation and a report on programs of the Veterans Administration.

Olney B. Owen, Chief Benefits Director, told the group that the past year has been the "most productive and beneficial period" for VA programs since most were granted increases.

Among improvements cited were a 10% increase in compensation payments, an annual \$150 allowance for those wearing prosthetic appliances, a jump of 200,000 yearly in approvals of VA backed loans and a rise of over 100,000 in participants in educational programs bringing the total number of veterans to over 2 million.

Owen also reported the VA was expanding its outreach program designed to inform the returning veteran of benefits available to him. He noted that mobile vans are being used to reach rural veterans and those in ghetto areas. The mobile office idea was started in Texas and has proved highly successful. Plans call for its expansion into California, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois in the near future.

Dr. Benjamin B. Wells, deputy chief medical director of the VA; Dr. Paul A. L. Haber, VA deputy for clinical services, and Marjorie R. Quandt, director of the VA Medical Administration Service told the V.F.W. Service Officers the VA is planning to expand its drug treatment centers now located in 32 states.

The VA also plans to widen its nursing care plan for chronically ill patients utilizing community nursing homes and those operated by the VA, the three officials said.

They also outlined a program that calls for a regional grouping of two to five hospitals which will enable the agency to provide more special services, such as intensive care units.

M. T. Martin, of the Air Force; Charles E. Curley, of the Navy, and Raymond J. Williams, of the Army, discussed correction of military records. Each of them is an executive secretary of boards of the three services handling review of records.

The three said the boards are favorably considering requests for upgrading less than honorable discharges given servicemen for personal drug abuse and for alcoholism if no crime was committed.

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

(Continued from page 29)

as was available to us who served in the Second World War or 43% over present VA rates—\$250 a month is what Vietnam veterans going to school should get. It passed the full Senate by a unanimous vote of 89 to nothing. I hope to see the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1972 on the President's desk by the end of this month."

Additional legislation ready for Senate action, he reported, includes a 10% increase in compensation rates for disabled veterans, a higher allowance for men who must wear prosthetic devices, placing national cemeteries under the VA and a comprehensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act.

Dorn called the GI Bill "the greatest investment by a grateful government in the history of the world." ■

"Some said that if the government entered education it would take it over," Dorn said. "It would lead to socialism, but the opposite has been true. From a \$19 billion investment, 10 million American men and women have paid \$100 billion more in taxes than they would have without it.

“Education is good business. It is our investment in the future. Churches, hospitals, schools and government on all levels are benefiting from that GI Bill. Keep it alive. Keep it going for the Vietnam veteran."

Voicing his opposition to amnesty, Dorn said:

"Some say not only should amnesty be granted the draft dodger and deserter who fled but they want to forgive them and bring them back and give them the GI Bill. This would be a crime." ■



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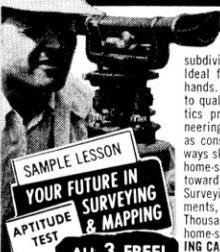
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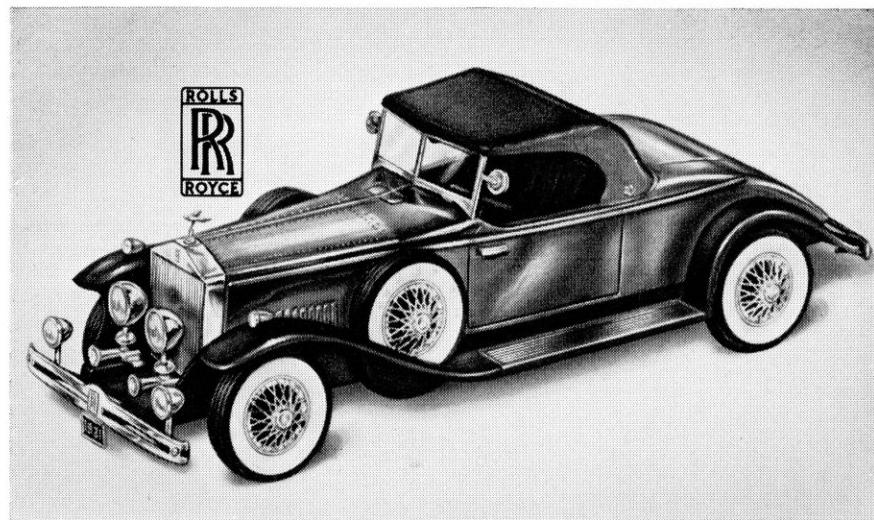
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RESOLUTIONS and AMENDMENTS

ADOPTED BY THE 73rd V.F.W. NATIONAL CONVENTION

- Nearly 170 resolutions were approved by delegates to the 73rd National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 18-25.

Americanism and Community Activities

- Urges active support by all V.F.W. units of 1972-73 Voice of Democracy program.

- Asks investigation and prosecution of groups and individuals, such as Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, Jane Fonda and Ramsey Clark, whose actions affect internal security and give aid and comfort to enemies of the U.S.

- Supports establishment of a "Day of Pride" to demonstrate that the majority of Americans believe in their country and to show gratitude for the sacrifices made by U.S. military forces in Vietnam.

- Seeks to have Dec. 7 designated as a day of remembrance.

- Urges upholding conviction of Valerie Goguen for disrespect to U.S. Flag.

- Asks that prayer be restored in public schools.

- Seeks legislation to prohibit public display and distribution of enemy flags.

- Urges enactment of laws prohibiting defacement and desecration of the American Flag.

- Opposes National Holiday Act of 1971; asks that original dates of these memorial and heritage holidays be restored.

- Reaffirms opposition to any change in the wording of the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Asks Congress to study Flag Code for revision and updating.

- Seeks to have June 14, Flag Day, designated a public, federal holiday.

- Approves creation of a Congressional flag.

Finance and Internal Organization

- Asks discontinuance of the use of the Cross of Malta on liquor bottles.

- Requests National V.F.W. to consider providing mailing labels to Posts.

- Opposes establishment of a World Government.

- (NOTE: Resolution 211 asking that a committee be appointed to develop a national drug abuse program was referred to the Commander-in-Chief and National Council of Administration for study.)

General Resolutions

- Urges V.F.W. units to cooperate with other national and state organizations in promoting youth, safety and patriotic programs.

- Supports establishment of a medal for prisoners of war who have adhered to the Code of Conduct.

- Seeks changes in Social Security benefits for personnel disabled while on active duty in service and an increase from \$100 to \$300 a month supplemental wage credit for members of the military.

- Urges adequate facilities to serve visitors at the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial.

- Supports H.R. 11510 which would exclude amounts paid to a Post for insurance coverage from being taxed.

- Urges income tax exclusion for POWs and MIAs.

- Seeks increase in Social Security lump-sum death benefits.

- Requests commemorative U.S. postage stamp honoring Spanish American War veterans.

- Asks that chiropractic care be included under Medicare.

- Commends Gen. William C. Westmoreland for his service to the nation.

- Urges that wartime veterans be allowed to deduct up to 5 years of service for attainment of full Social Security retirement benefits.

- Asks Expeditionary or Occupation Medals be authorized for service during certain dates with U.S. armed forces in Cuba, Korea and SEATO.

- Seeks amendment of 1954 IRS Code to remove tax liability from V.F.W. Posts.

- Supports U.S. Savings Bonds program.

- Urges efforts be continued to assure high quality drugs and medicine for veterans and servicemen.

- Opposes revision of 1872 Mining Law which would prevent use of public lands for mining development and exploration.

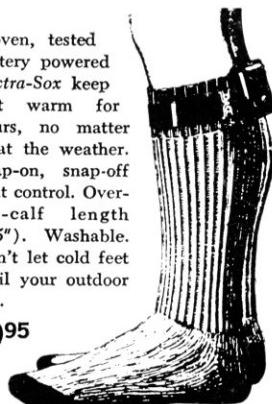
- Asks APO-FPO privileges in receiving and sending mail for V.F.W. units.

- Supports the President's decision to blockade ports and bomb supply lines in North Vietnam.

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324. Urges polluted wells be posted and packaged food be correctly labeled and the public be informed of any and all chemical contamination.

325. Urges support of efforts to preserve national resources.

327. Seeks to reopen Medicare enrollment period for senior citizens, who for good cause, have failed to enroll.

330. Urges continued support of national health campaigns.

331. Recommends 1/10 of monies from sale of "proof" Eisenhower silver dollars be given as a grant to Eisenhower College.

332. Seeks to have the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, now privately operated, taken over by the federal government to assure continued honor to the memory of J. Edgar Hoover and other famous Americans buried there.

333. Urges U.S. government to require utilization of American airlines by all activities it funds.

334. Seeks free mailing privileges for all overseas servicemen and military personnel confined in hospitals in the U.S.

335. Expresses sympathy to Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama for wounds he suffered from an attempt on his life.

National Security and Foreign Affairs

401. Demands adherence by North Vietnam to the provisions of the Geneva Convention covering treatment of POWs, release of all sick and wounded POWs, inspection by the International Red Cross of POW facilities, proper food and medical treatment for POWs, release of names of all POWs and regular mail correspondence between POWs and their families be permitted.

402. Urges continued maintenance of a strong national defense.

403. Supports U.S. efforts for peace in the Middle East and to counterbalance Soviet influence there.

404. Urges steps be taken to counter expanding Soviet military capability.

405. Supports U.S. sovereignty, control and defense of the Panama Canal.

406. Urges nation to rally behind the President in his efforts for peace in Southeast Asia.

408. Calls for continued support of ROTC and Department of Defense research programs.

410. Urges continuance of present trade embargo and diplomatic isolation of Communist China.

412. Recommends retirement age for Reserve components be reduced from 60 years of age to 55 without reduction in benefits or privileges.

414. Calls for total citizen concern for POWs and MIAs and demands the UN secure immediate information about them.

416. Urges denial of benefits and government employment for all convicted of disloyalty.

417. Recommends U.S. military reorient research and development toward modernized and updated objectives.

418. Urges U.S. to maintain Selective Service.

419. Calls for modern military forces sufficient to maintain the nation's first-rate position.

420. Supports U.S. military policy in Vietnam.

421. Demands that any Vietnam war settlement include full accounting of all MIAs.

422. Requests Navy regulations change requiring retention of records and notes in court martial cases.

427. Seeks privileges equal to those on active duty for retired military personnel and free schooling for dependents of retirees overseas.

428. Urges support for the Republic of China on Taiwan.

431. Opposes amnesty, general or selective, for draft dodgers or deserters and that those who voluntarily renounced their citizenship and defected to a foreign country be denied reentry to the U.S.

435. Terms statements that the U.S. is systematically bombing the dike system of North Vietnam a "big lie."

436. Opposes "no win" wars and urges that in future armed conflicts the U.S. in defense of itself or another nation's security be allowed to respond militarily as necessary.

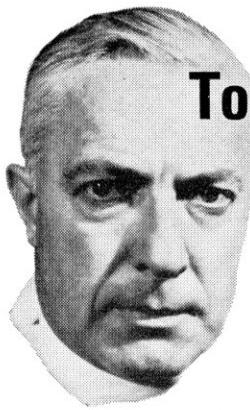
437. Asks investigation of Ramsey Clark's North Vietnam visit and his prosecution if he violated federal law.

438. Urges U.S. to do what is needed to verify Soviet compliance with Strategic Arms Limitation Agreements of May, 1972.

439. Opposes complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam prior to release of POWs and urges those who have a "naïve" hope such a withdrawal without prior release would result in their freedom to reconsider their position.

440. In reference to My Lai incident, urges adoption of procedures which ensure prompt

(Continued On Next Page)



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So, if you are beginning to notice that your forehead is getting larger, beginning to notice that there is too much hair on your comb, beginning to be worried about the dryness of your hair, the itchiness of your scalp, the ugly dandruff — these are Nature's Red Flags warning you of impending baldness. Even if you have been losing your hair for some time, don't let seborrhea rob you of the rest of your hair.

Note To Doctors
Doctors, clinics and hospitals interested in scalp disorders can obtain professional samples and literature on written request.

Male pattern baldness is the cause of the great majority of cases of baldness and excessive hair loss. In such cases neither the Comate treatment nor any other treatment is effective.

"I used to comb out a handfull of hair at a time. Now I cut and get thin." "I only get 4-6 on my comb. D. W. G., c/o FPO, N.Y. The terrible itching has stopped." —L.H.M., Los Angeles, Cal.

"My hair has improved. It used to fall out by handfuls. Comate stopped it from falling out." —D. M. H., Oklahoma City, Okla.

"Comate is successful in every way you mention. Used it only a few days and can see the big change in my scalp and hair." —C.E.H., N. Richland, Wash.

"My hair was thin at the temples, and all over. Now it looks so much thicker. I can tell it." —Miss C.T. San Angelo, Tex.

"Now my hair looks quite thick." —F. J. K., Chicago, Ill.

"My hair had been coming out and breaking off for about 21 years and Comate three more. I am so happy over it, I had to write!" —Mrs. J. E., Lisbon, Ga.

"No trouble with dandruff since I started using it." —L. W. W., Galveston, Tex.

—Mrs. H. J., McComb, Miss.

To you we offer this UNCONDITIONAL GUARANTEE. Treat your scalp to Comate in your own home, following the simple directions. See for yourself in your own mirror how after a few treatments, Comate makes your hair look thicker and alive. How Comate ends your dandruff, stops your scalp itch. How Comate gives your hair a chance to grow. Most men and women report results after the first treatment, some take longer. But we say this to you. If, for any reason, you are not completely satisfied with the improvement in your own case — AT ANY TIME — return the unused portion for a prompt refund. No questions asked.

But don't delay. For the sake of your hair, order Comate today. Nothing — not even Comate — can grow hair from dead follicles. Fill out the coupon now, and take the first step toward a good head of hair again.

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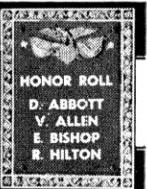
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and just punishment at the lowest level possible for such transgression to avoid the furor and emotion of the "My Lai Trials."

441. Urges military services take all possible action to enhance public opinion of them.

Veterans Service

601. Demands VA hospital system be independent of any National Health Insurance program.

602. Calls for VA to fulfill Congressional mandates of an average daily patient load of 85,500 and operation beds of 97,500 as well as elimination of waiting lists so the maximum 125,000 hospital beds authorized by Congress are utilized.

603. Opposes any proposal which could diminish VA programs.

604. Urges a national cemetery in every state with the system being under the operation of the VA.

605. Seeks increases in compensation rates, dependency allowances, statutory awards and other benefits for service connected disabled.

607. Opposes any weakening of veterans preference and urges its expansion.

608. Urges expansion of employment services to veterans.

609. Seeks improvement in veterans rights under Civil Service employment.

610. Requests adequate funding, personnel and other improvements in job placement programs for veterans.

611. Calls for certain liberalizations in VA compensation, pension and insurance programs.

612. Recommends certain changes to improve, preserve and insure quality medical care for veterans.

613. Endorses recomputation of military retired pay and improvement of military retirement annuity program.

614. Urges Cabinet status for VA.

615. Seeks increased educational and training benefits for veterans.

618. Urges preservation of National Soldiers Home at VA center in West Los Angeles, Calif.

620. Urges full medical treatment without qualification be given all Vietnam and other former POWs.

621. Seeks same time limits for present education benefits as allowed for WWII GI Bill.

622. Requests VA recognize radiation-cataracts as an occupational disease of radar veterans with service connection for longterm, delayed effects.

623. Asks Congress to provide funds for an epidemiological study of radiation-cataracts among radar veterans.

624. Seeks VA hospital for Sacramento, Calif., area.

628. Requests increase from 6c to 10c a mile in VA travel pay rate for eligible veterans.

629. Urges federal legislation to equalize unemployment benefits for ex-servicemen.

630. Asks that widows of retired military personnel, who died of non-service causes, receive percentage of the retirement pay.

631. Seeks insurance plan for present servicemen which conforms to those offered during prior conflicts.

632. Requests free VA hospitalization for dependents of 100% disabled veterans, permanent and total under government rating schedule, or to his widow and dependent children after his death.

633. Urges retired military personnel be entitled to VA compensation for service connected disabilities together with full retirement pay.

634. Requests that widows of eligible veterans be able to retain "Commissary Privilege Card."

635. Seeks waiver of government insurance premiums for totally disabled veterans.

636. Asks authorization of aid and attendance for veterans receiving compensation for service connected disabilities.

637. Urges pension for all veterans at age 65.

638. Urges tuition, fees, books and other such costs be paid in addition to the subsistence allowance of the Vietnam era GI educational bill.

639. Seeks continuance of DIC, medical and commissary privileges to widows of 100% service connected disabled.

640. Requests changes in law to permit accredited representatives with valid power of attorney to review files of veterans treated for drug abuse.

642. Urges pensions for WWI veterans.

643. Asks that no changes be made in VA hospitals which would affect the functions of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

644. Seeks liberalization of veterans entitlement to an automobile or other conveyance.

645. Requests replacement of VA hospital at Allen Park, Mich.

Resolutions

(Continued from last page)

647. Seeks improved death benefit payments to widows and dependents of veterans with certain service connected disabilities.

648. Urges use of closed circuit TV to provide sports programs in VA hospitals in a blackout area.

649. Seeks low cost hospital and medical insurance benefits for servicemen for a year after discharge.

650. Asks that a break in continuity for the protection of disability rating in effect for 20 years or more be permitted.

651. Urges muster out pay for Vietnam era veterans.

652. Seeks total disability rates from first day of hospitalization for veterans with a service connected disability.

654. Requests additional compensation for dependents of veterans with disability rating of less than 50%.

655. Urges that disabled veterans be made eligible for the HUD program.

656. Seeks to increase maximum VA direct loan from \$21,000 to \$25,000.

657. Seeks automobile allowance for certain disabled WWI veterans.

658. Requests additional VA facilities at Fort Harrison and Miles City, Mont.

659. Requests changes in effective date of reduction or discontinuance of compensation or pension.

661. Supports S. 1534 which would aid newly discharged veterans who need maternity coverage for their wives.

664. Seeks VA hospital for Camp White, Ore.

668. Supports H.R. 3616 and S-364 on recompensation of retired military pay.

669. Seeks treatment of veterans at military hospitals outside the U.S. where no VA facility exists.

670. Commends Sen. John O. Pastore (R. I.) for his work with veterans legislation.

671. Urges maximum pension benefits for veterans under 65 applying for non-service connected pension pending notification of award of Social Security benefits.

672. Opposes any action which would dismember VA.

675. Asks study of veterans pension program for the purpose of providing a temporary "permanent total rating."

676. Urges assistance to veterans being treated under the Government Rehabilitation Program in obtaining a review of their discharge.

677. Requests securing of veterans records to expedited.

678. Seeks investigation of correspondence courses by VA.

679. Asks exemption of certain benefits as being considered income for VA pension purposes.

680. Seeks review of discharges given alcoholics.

681. Endorses legislation bringing compensation ratings up to the true percentage ratio.

683. Urges funds be allocated again to provide military honor guards for burial of veterans at national cemeteries.

686. Seeks strengthening of Veterans Preference laws.

687. Opposes any attempt by the Office of Management and Budget to eliminate the present veterans burial allowance.

689. Asks that inpatient facilities at St. Albans, N.Y., Naval Hospital be continued for servicemen.

691. Urges sufficient funds for priority manpower and related services to veterans and that centralized veterans placement service units be installed at each Job Bank location.

692. Urges adequate funds for Veterans Employment Service and that steps be taken to assure VERS adequate time to perform services for veterans.

693. Requests F.W.W. representation on State Manpower Planning Councils.

694. Urges disabled veterans preference in public employment programs.

696. Seeks expansion of employment services to disabled and older veterans.

700. Opposes providing jobs for draft dodgers and deserters.

703. Supports "Jobs for Veterans" program.

704. Supports re-employment rights program of the U.S. Department of Labor.

706. Seeks to have VA pay a veteran's pension for the total number of the veteran's children.

708. Asks VA burial benefits be increased from \$250 to \$750.

709. Seeks amendment to allow continuation of drugs and treatment for "housebound" veterans who exceed income limitations.

711. Urges the Post Office Department be placed back under federal supervision.

712. Asks reduction in federal employment probationary period for disabled veterans.

713. Opposes studies aimed at weakening Veterans Preference.

714. Opposes any attempts to by-pass Veterans Preference laws.

715. Seeks immediate medical exams for disabled veteran job applicants.

716. Urges Civil Service preference for wives of POWs and MIAs.

723. Asks elimination of statutory limitation for applying for correction of military and naval records.

724. Urges appropriate service medal for servicemen who served honorably in Korea from July 28, 1954, to Oct. 1, 1966.

725. Asks elimination of statutory limitation for initial application for review of discharge.

726. Asks rehearings by Discharge Review Boards of any case previously denied as a non-appearance case contingent upon personal appearance of the applicant.

727. Urges increase in the income limitation for pension and DIC programs.

728. Supports H.R. 14752 which would permit Vietnam veterans to reinstate their Servicemen's Group Life Insurance.

729. Opposes any integration of veterans health care programs with national health care insurance.

730. Urges improved GI Bill assistance.

731. Asks that all VA training programs be authorized as on-the-job training for VA educational benefits.

(NOTE: The following resolutions were approved and referred to the appropriate V.F.W. National Committee for study: 655 — Make HUD program available to disabled veterans. 666 — Asks increase in Educational Aid Allowance for veterans. (Both to National Legislative Committee.) 685 — Urges steps be taken to assure proper care and treatment of returning POWs. 688 — Recommends additional nursing facilities for veterans. (Both to National Veterans Service Committee.)

Amendments to By-Laws

Section 605—National Dues

Amend Section 605, National By-Laws, by deleting the entire section and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

"The National dues shall be \$2.50 per annum payable by every member in good standing, except Life Members, which shall include a year's subscription to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Magazine, the official organ of the National Convention. Provided, National dues on 1973 members reported to National Headquarters on Department transmittals mailed not later than October 2, 1972, shall be \$2.00."

Section 617—Regional National Council of Administration Members—How Elected

Amend Section 617, National By-Laws, by deleting the second paragraph and the enumeration of Departments comprising National Council Districts, and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

"Regional districts consisting of a single Department having in excess of 70,000 members shall bear alphabetical rather than numerical designations. The regional districts designated D, E, and H shall elect a National Council Member with term commencing at the 1972 National Convention and every two years thereafter; Districts A, B, C, F, and G shall each elect a National Council Member with term commencing at the 1973 National Convention and every two years thereafter.

1. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont.
2. Massachusetts, Connecticut.
3. New Jersey, Maryland.
4. Rhode Island, District of Columbia, Delaware.
5. Indiana, Missouri.
6. West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky.
7. Tennessee, North Carolina.
8. Florida, Georgia.
9. Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina.
10. Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas.
11. Wisconsin, Iowa.
12. South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming.
13. Nebraska, Kansas.
14. Montana, Washington, Idaho.
15. New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona.
16. Panama Canal Zone, Pacific Areas, Alaska, Hawaii.
17. Utah, Nevada, Oregon.
- A. Pennsylvania.
- B. Illinois.
- C. New York.
- D. Ohio.
- E. Minnesota.
- F. Michigan.
- G. California.
- H. Texas."

Amendments to Manual of Procedure

Section 214—Solicitation of Funds

Amend Section 214, Manual of Procedure, paragraph three, line five, by deleting the words "then only after the approval of the Department Commander" and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

"then only after the approval of the Department Council of Administration."

Section 218—Officers, Powers and Duties

Amend Section 218, Manual of Procedure, subsection entitled "Duty of Trustees", paragraph one, lines one and two, by deleting the words "not later than fifteen days following the expiration of each quarterly period" and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

"not later than the end of the month following the last day of each quarterly period."

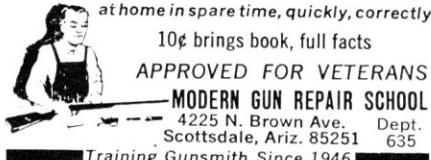
Section 714—Control of Mailing Lists

Amend Section 714, Manual of Procedure, by adding the following new paragraph at the end of the present section:

"Mailing lists provided by the National Headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the use of subordinate units in contacting their own members shall remain under the control of the Commander-in-Chief and shall be used only for such purposes as he may authorize."

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